

SOCCER

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GST INCLUSIVE



Back from retirement — Aurelio Vidmar is both a player and Assistant-Coach for Adelaide United.

Adelaide Utd ready for NSL Challenge

Move over the Adelaide City Force because there's a new club in town - Adelaide United, it was officially announced last Friday morning at the 'City of Churches'.

After the Force's withdrawal from the National League due to economical reasons, it looked as though the competition would run with a new 12-team format.

This was not to be as the South Australian Soccer Federation stepped in and won the right to once again have a side from their state.

Led by new chairman and former OFC chief Basil Scarsella along with newly appointed coach John Kosmina, the club is currently undertaking a trial process in signing new stars for the year.

Seven players from the former Adelaide City Force side are expected to sign with United, while it's been evident that former Socceroo and Force player Aurelio Vidmar has signed with the new club as both a player and as the Assistant-Coach as well.

Kosmina, a former Brisbane Strikers coach has stated that he will look towards signing players from rival National League clubs however has noted that he would rather scout local players from the South Australian Premier League.

The club went through its first training session at the

Marden complex, home of SA Premier League club Adelaide Blue Eagles yesterday with Vidmar taking the side in the absence of 'Kossie' who will take up the head post at the side by the end of the week.

Four trial matches have been organized by Adelaide before their first match against the Strikers on the 19th of October at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Force managed to play just one friendly game prior to their departure from the National League with a six-four loss to the MetroStars.

Since the inclusion of Adelaide United, a strong response has been heralded by the local community with tickets for the first match against the Strikers being one hot commodity.

United's first match against Sydney Olympic has been rescheduled on a later date, the club will don the traditional South Australian colours in Yellow, Blue and Red.

Round 1 NSL Fixtures

Wollongong Wolves v Sydney United, Parramatta Power v South Melbourne, Kingz v Newcastle United, Melbourne Knights v Marconi, Northern Spirit v Brisbane Strikers

DEFERRED: Sydney Olympic v Adelaide Utd - BYE - Perth Glory

SOUTH NAME COVENY CAPTAIN

By Brendon Davis

Kiwi International Vaughan Coveny was announced as South Melbourne's Captain at their shirt presentation night. Coveny assumes the yellow armband from club legend Paul Trimboli who will continue in a playing role.

Coveny plays as a striker or attacking mid fielder. His appointment was greeted enthusiastically by supporters, players and sponsors at a gala function held at the magnificent Tudor Court in Caulfield — a business now owned and run by another South Melbourne identity and high profile Melbourne Barrister, Con Kilias.

On the players front at South, the faithful at Tudor Court last week were delighted with two further signings being former Adelaide star Scott Tunbridge and Fawcner mid fielder, Carl Recchia.

Tunbridge was being courted by at least 3 NSL Clubs with Olympic being regarded as favourites.

But Tunbridge will join his former Adelaide captain Ante Kovacevic at Bob Jane Stadium.

And Stuart Munro was delighted with the signing of the highly rated Fawcner mid fielder Carl Recchia who is considered to have an exciting soccer career ahead of him.

Number one keeper Dean Anastasiadis is also recovering well from his foot injury — he may be available for Souths first home game against the Strikers in round 4.

Eugene Galekovic, who is currently abroad on international duty, remains Souths only fit keeper going into round one.

But South will likely announce this week that old boy and former Kingz custodian, Michael Theoklitos will return to Bon Jane on a short term contract to assist his old club, before he returns to Europe for further trials.

FRASER READY FOR STAR CHALLENGE



NSW Winter Super League's Grand-Final has been decided for season 2003 with the Fraser Park Dragons taking on this year's Premiers Sydney Crescent Star at Hajduk Stadium this Sunday.

Fraser booked their early ticket to the big final with a two-one after extra time win against the Stars two-weeks ago while their Turkish counterparts set a date for this week's final with a four-two penalty shoot-out victory against the Hajduk Wanderers last Sunday afternoon. Having been noted as the two best squads in the WSL, the match will showcase many past and present stars from their respective sides.

Fraser, led by coach Ian Gillan has had the pleasure of securing the services of former Northern Spirit star Tony Faria, ace striker Mark Guerreiro and veteran star Martin Bourke.

Crescent on the other hand will have stars Angelo Petratos, skipper Yavus Ekinci and midfield whiz kid Terry Atsas who will hope to bring glory to the club.

More news and views on the big final this week can be seen in NSW section of ABSW (Pages 19-26)

EMPOLI SIGN FUTURE AUSSIE STARS

It was confirmed last week that two more young Australians have made the trek to the European footballing world with the destination confirmed - Italy's prestigious Serie A.

Empoli FC, home to Australian Socceroo Vince Grella and also Marco Bresciano, now of Parma, have taken the chance of possibly unearthing future stars for the club.

Former AIS graduates Nicholas Stavroulakis and Frank Lagana spent a few weeks trialing for the club where they impressed the coaching staff and had done enough to sign for the Primavera squad this year.

A Former U17 Joeys attacking midfielder, Stavroulakis, who also spent a small stint with the Parramatta Power agreed to a one-year deal plus a second year option while Lagana, an ex-VIS and Whittlesea Stallions attacker signed a four-year agreement.

The pair have so far enjoyed their time in the beautiful city of Empoli and have really appreciated the support the local people have given them.

An in-depth interview on the two aspiring stars will feature in next week's ABSW so stay tuned.



Empoli's new Australian stars: (L-R) Nicholas Stavroulakis & Frank Lagana

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PLUS A FULL EUROPEAN WRAP-UP OF THE WEEKENDS MATCHES

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World Cup Dinner
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TELEPHONE
(editorial and general enquiries)
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ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

John Economos
Tel: (02) 9744 6984

EMAIL
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
ABSW's EMAIL
absw007@hotmail.com
absw@foreignlanguage.com.au

FACSIMILE
(editorial, advertising and
general enquiries)
(02) 9660 5736

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1-9 Glebe Point Road,
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EDITOR
Mark Stavroulakis
STAFF WRITER

LAYOUT/TYSETTER
Mary Quartly
PICTURE EDITOR
Carlos Furtado

CORRESPONDENTS
Alan Clark (Victoria)
Glenn Davis (Brisbane)
Otto Bader (Wollongong)
Richard Kreider (Perth)
Graham Cooke (Canberra)
Joe Russo (Sydney)
Michael Tsoukalis (Victoria)
Daniela Raco (Victoria)
Brendon Davis (Victoria)
Peter Damalas (Sydney)
Daniel Kuziow (Sydney)

SCANNING
Chris Jiang
FILM PLANNING

PHOTOGRAPHY
Carlos Furtado
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Collingwood VIC 3066
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BY DANIEL KUZIW

Look to see an announcement
on two rising Australian
youth stars who are set to sign
deals with Serie A club Empoli
FC.

The pair have been busily
training for pre-season and from
reports have impressed many
on-lookers at the club. Set to
sign in the next few days, ABSW
will provide its readers with the
scoop on potential Soccerroo
stars. Look to see the pair follow
in the footsteps of Marco
Bresciano and Vince Grella at
the club.

★ ★ ★ ★

Wycombe's Australian
goalkeeper Frank Talia
has been slammed for "rash
judgement" following his red
card against Rushden on the
weekend of September 6.

Talia raced out of his goal to
commit a professional foul on
Diamonds striker Onandi Lowe
and was promptly sent packing.

Wycombe went on to lose the
game 2-0 with striker Richard
Harris in goal, and assistant boss
Terry Gibson was far from
impressed.

He told the club's official
website: "When Frank came
dashing out, we all knew that it
was a rash piece of judgement
and we were holding our breath
to see what decision the referee
would make.

"Unfortunately, it was a red
card and we had to start the
match five minutes in without a
keeper."

★ ★ ★ ★

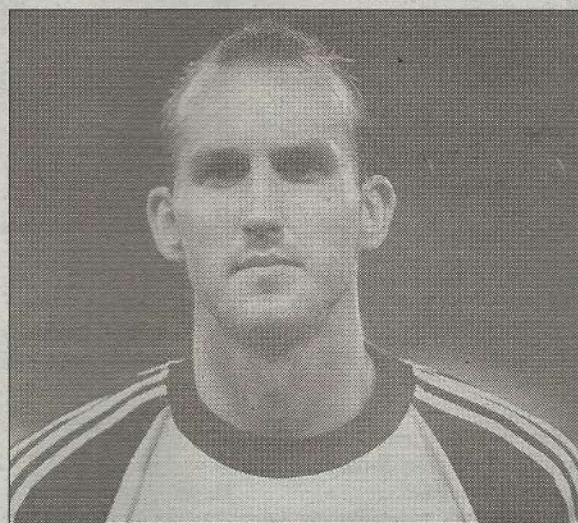
Midfielder Jacob Burns has
snubbed a move to Viborg
after being unimpressed by the
Danish side's offer.

The 25-year-old was released
by Leeds United at the end of
last season after failing to shine
during his time at Elland Road.

A trial with Dutch giants
Feyenoord in the spring did not
deliver a contract while Perugia
opted not to firm up their inter-
est.

Burns then decided to move
to Denmark to try his luck with
Viborg who reside in mid-table.

But though he was offered a
deal by Viborg, he rejected the
chance to resurrect his career
after being unhappy with the
terms on the table.



Mark Schwarzer: Hailed as one of the top three
goalkeepers in the Premiership.

Jamie Harnwell has joined
English non-league team
Welling United.

Harnwell joined Third
Division side Leyton Orient at
the start of the season on a one-
month contract, but O's manag-
er Paul Brush decided not to
extend the deal.

"Jamie's a terrific lad, and
he's worked very hard the whole
time he's been with us," Brush
told the club's official website.

"But we're not in a position
to offer him anything past this
month with Simon Downer get-
ting close to fitness again."

Harnwell made three appear-
ances for Leyton Orient; as a
substitute against Doncaster and
Yeovil, and starting in a home
defeat against Cheltenham.

Welling United plays in the
Dr Martens League Premier
Division and is coached by for-
mer Manchester United and
England defender Paul Parker.

★ ★ ★ ★

Mark Viduka is confident
Leeds' new signings will
come good and help the club to
a better season than most critics
predicted.

Peter Reid brought in eight
new players, with Jody Morris,
Zoumana Camara, Lamine
Sakho and Jermaine Pennant all
impressing since the start of the
season and Viduka believes the
Leeds faithful have something
to cheer about again.

He told www.leedsutd-
mad.co.uk: "I think things are
looking up here.

"The new boys have come in
and done excellently. The new
signings are good enough to fill
anyone's shoes and they're
proving that by the way they are
playing.

"The way they have fitted in
has been a massive encourage-
ment. All of them have come in
hungry to prove themselves and
hungry to do well in the
Premiership.

"Jermaine Pennant has been
absolutely outstanding on the
right-hand side during the last
couple of games and that makes
my job easier as well.

"Smithy and I need that kind
of service and we're also getting
it down the left now from
Lamine.

"Zoumana Camara has

helped to make us tight at the
back and that's very, very
important. That let us down last
year, we would concede too
many goals far too easily.

"We are unlucky not to have
more points than we have.
Everybody thought we were
going to struggle at the start of
the season but we have done
well so far and I'm sure we can
build on that."

★ ★ ★ ★

Brett Emerton is hopeful of
recovering from a bruised
calf in time to face his old friend



Mark Viduka: Confident that Leeds United will have a
better season than most critics predicted.

Harry Kewell when Liverpool
visit Ewood Park.

Emmo' sustained a knock
against Manchester City but is
confident that with almost two
weeks off to rest he will be
available and told the club's
website: "I got a kick on my calf
and it has been very badly
bruised but with the internation-
al break I have been able to have
two weeks' steady treatment.

"Hopefully I will be back to
face Liverpool.

"Me and Harry go back a
long way as players together. I
met up with him at the
Australian training camp last
weekend and I am looking for-
ward to playing against him in
his new colours."

★ ★ ★ ★

Middlesbrough's Mark
Schwarzer has been hailed
as one of the top three goalkeep-
ers in the Premiership by
Australia coach Frank Farina.

Farina substituted Schwarzer
at half-time during the
Soccerroos' 2-1 victory over
Jamaica in a friendly at Reading
last Sunday.

But the Aussie boss has dis-
missed suggestions that
Schwarzer's replacement,
Zeljko Kalac, is poised to take
over the mantle of his country's
No 1.

"Mark Schwarzer has been
doing a great job for us and is
probably one of the best three
keepers in the Premier League
at the moment," said Farina.

"It's a healthy situation to
have Kalac putting pressure on
him, but Mark remains my No
1."



"But I've seen him in training
and he's an absolutely fantastic
player who could make the dif-
ference for them."

★ ★ ★ ★

Danny Invincible has certain-
ly been a hit since his move
from English club Swindon to
SPL side Kilmarnock.

Despite having only played a
proper 20 minutes for the side,
the media and fans alike have
taken a shine to him, not least
because of his name;

"I've heard everything there
is to hear about the name. I don't
let it bother me any more.

"I remember the first time I
came to England. I was coming
on as a sub in my first trial
match for West Ham.

"When the announcer said:
'Substitute for West Ham -
Danny Invincible' the whole
crowd p****d themselves
laughing.

"Whenever people hear the
name for the first time, they
wonder if it's a fake name, a
stage name or something I've
made up but that's just the way
it is."

The former Marconi player
looks set to make his return in
the next couple of weeks. Carted
off on a stretcher after a reckless
challenge from Partick Thistle's
David Lilley, Invincible is deter-
mined to make the most of what
he believes is an ideal opportu-
nity.

"It's been very frustrating.
When the injury happened it
was a huge disappointment. To
date, this has been the worst
injury of my career.

"But that's football and these
things test us a bit. Full credit to
our physio, though. Initially I
was told I could be out for eight
weeks but he's getting me back
much quicker than we first
thought I would be."

Danny went on: "I really
think I can excel under Jim and
Billy Brown because the way
they want to play suits me down
to the ground.

"I went to Il Ciocco with
them in the summer and straight
away it proved to me how well
the club is run. I've never been
to a club where the facilities
have been better," he ended.



Jamie Harnwell: Has joined English non-league team
Welling United after his one month contract with Leyton
Orient expired.



ST GEORGE SOCCER ASSOCIATION 2004 NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

EXPERIENCED COACHES REQUIRED

The St George Soccer Association would like to invite any suitably qualified coaches to submit their application for a position as a Youth League coach for the upcoming 2004 season.

It is preferred that the applicant has a senior playing background. Coaches should include within their application, a copy of their qualifications, preferably Senior Licence and above as well as an overview of their recent coaching experience and playing background if applicable. Applications are to be submitted no later than Friday 19th September 2003.

All applications must be marked as confidential and mailed to:

St George Soccer Association Inc.
Att: Association Secretary
PO Box 347
Hurstville BC NSW 1481

The St George Soccer Association is proudly sponsored by Sydney Home Loans.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE SHARKS



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE COACHES

SEASON 2004 is Approaching
Applications are invited for all

COACHING POSITIONS

- PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE — Level 2 LICENCE
- ASSISTANT COACHES
- GOALKEEPING COACH
- TRAINER/SPRINT COACH
- Physio

Resume: Outlining experiences, qualifications and references should be sent to:
Director of Coaching,
PO Box 583, Gympie 2228

Closing date for Applications is 30 September 2003

SUTHD SHARKS WITH NEW DIRECTION

Adelaide United to replace Force

New soccer club Adelaide United - wearing the South Australian colours of red, blue and yellow - will fill the vacancy left by Adelaide City Force in the national league.

New soccer club Adelaide United - wearing the South Australian colours of red, blue and yellow - will fill the vacancy left by Adelaide City Force in the national league.

The new outfit, coached by former Newcastle United and Brisbane Strikers coach John Kosmina, was launched on Friday.

Former Oceania confederation president and Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella is president, with the club's administration to work in conjunction with the South Australian Soccer Federation.

Scarsella said his club would attract more broadly

based public support than the Force, which had been criticised for being too heavily ensconced in Adelaide's Italian community.



John Kosmina has been selected as Adelaide United's new coach.

"I think this is the team the South Australian public has been asking for a long time," Scarsella told AAP.

"It's a broadly based team with the support of the pub-

lic, corporate Adelaide and the government.

"The combination of support of those three groups should ensure the team is successful off the park."

He said there was a capacity for a much bigger following in Adelaide than the Force was able to attract, citing Perth Glory's marketing success as an example of what the club was aiming to do.

United will replace the Force in the NSL draw for the upcoming season, but its first three scheduled matches will be postponed, meaning it will not play until October 17, against Brisbane Strikers at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Scarsella said many of the Force players were expected to join the new club.

"Kosmina's also got a couple of players from interstate that he's talking to and some players from the local competition," he said.

Socceroo red-carded

BLACKBURN Rovers' Socceroo defender, Lucas Neill, is facing a three-match ban after being sent off for a wild lunge at Liverpool's Jamie Carragher in their Premiership match at Ewood Park last Saturday.

The Australian defender was given a straight red after only 13 minutes for a wild, over-the-top challenge that left Carragher writhing in agony on the ground.

Neill, 25, joined Blackburn from Millwall in 2001 and this off-season signed a new contract which will keep with the club until 2007.



Socceroo Lucas Neill saw red against Liverpool last week.



Liverpool

MSC Liverpool are seeking expressions of interest for Coaching Positions for the 2004 season:

**Under 13 to Under 18
Youth League
Under 20 Super League
and Goalkeeper Coach**

All applicants must hold a current qualification.

Applications should include:

- Qualifications • Experience
- Age/Team preference

And be addressed to:

**The Secretary
Moorebank Sports Soccer Club
PO Box 495
Moorebank NSW 2170**

Closing Date: 26th September 2003



2004

COACHING POSITIONS FOR YOUTH LEAGUE

To help prepare for the 2004 Youth League Competition, Parramatta Star is now receiving applications from suitably qualified coaches interested in coaching either Under 13, 14, 15, 16 or 18's.

For further information please contact:
Secretary - Greg Pipikios on 0439 133 280

All interested accredited coaches may send their applications outlining qualifications, experience and preferred team(s) no later than Friday 3 October to:

**The Secretary,
Parramatta Star FC**
Email: pipikios@bigpond.com
Or alternatively, Fax to: 9680 9551



Hajduk Wanderers S.C.

EXPERIENCED COACHES REQUIRED FOR THE 2004 SEASON

Be part of one of the most successful clubs over the last six years.

The following coaches are required
U/20's Coach — would prefer State Licence

YOUTH LEAGUE COACHES

Must have minimum Youth Licence
U/13's, U/14's, U/15's, U/16's and U/18's
Applications for the above positions can be done in the following manner.

By E-Mail:

hajdukwanderers@hotmail.com

By Fax: 9609 6696

By Post:

PO Box 332 Merrylands NSW 2160

Enquiries: Contact Charles Abdilla
0416 171 896 or 9757 2906

Applications must be received by 19 September 2003



Applications are being called for the Wollongong Wolves Women's Division

COACHING POSITIONS

The positions are:-

- 1) Women's Teams (Super League)
— Opens & Under 21
- 2) Girl's Teams (Youth League)
— Under 16 & Under 14
- 3) Girl's Team (Junior League)
— Under 12

Applications close 20th September 2003

Send applications to:

PETER GRAHAM

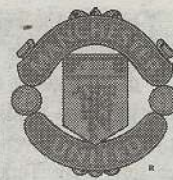
c/- Wollongong Wolves Women's Division
PO Box 448, FIGTREE, NSW. 2525

Please contact Edith or Peter Graham
02 42 565 486, or-closing date for applications



Parramatta Eagles Soccer Academy

Official Youth Development Partners
of Manchester United in Oceania



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH LEAGUE PLAYERS

Expressions of interest are sought from suitably qualified players for the

2004 PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

Limited positions are available for all grades U/13 — U/18
Under the guidance of our internationally recognised
football manager RAUL BLANCO.

Please send your resumé listing your experience and personal details to:-

admin@parraeaglesacademy.com
or FAX: (02) 9738 7320

**FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
Chief Scout JOHN CURRAN 0405 148 254**

Q&A with Dominic Longo & Chris Jackson

DOMINIC LONGO



The nitty Marconi defender is eager and raring to go for the new year.

1) How are you finding pre-season at the Stallions?

Personally, it has been enjoyable and I feel much better for it. Our fitness trainer Anthony Crea has been working us hard and I think the guys have really put in some good sessions.

Basically everyone except for the new arrivals, started in early July. Along with our pre-season friendlies, we also recently managed to fit in a training camp & 2 games on the Gold Coast, which was great from an overall team unit perspective.

2) New coach, new players, what is the clubs expectations?

It is obvious there is excitement around the club at the moment. Many great players from the past (Jean Paul De Marigny, Andy Harper, Brad Maloney, Brendan Renaud) and many exciting new players (Nick Carle, Jeromy Harris, Simon Bell, Mitchell Prentice, Todd Brodie to name a few) have come on board this year to help strengthen the talent already existing within our squad.

To have the combined experience of coaches/back-room staff such as Jean Paul, Andy Harper, Stan Ivancic and Anthony Crea involved in preparing and guiding us around the park is invaluable. We have the potential to be very competitive.

Our goal is to collectively harness that potential and drive one another into being as successful as we can. If we do this who knows where we will end up.

3) On a personal level, what do you hope to achieve from this season?

I do have personal goals which I strive for every year, although, those of the team as a whole and seeing individuals surpass their own expectations are for me the most important achievements.

4) You skipping the squad again?

It is great having Brad Maloney on board again and I have no hesitation in handing him back the captains armband so we may rekindle the successful years the club has had previously.

To wear it on behalf of the Marconi Stallions has been an honour. It isn't the armband, which makes a great player, but the character beneath it and the team willing to stand firmly behind it.

5) The arrival of former players Brad Maloney and Brendan Renaud, what has this done to the club?

The arrival of Brad and Brendan has brought some familiar faces back to the club. People know they are winners, they have been successful and they have a great deal of passion for what they do.

From a team perspective, they have a lot of experience, a great work ethic and know what it takes to be successful. They are also great guys and role models away from soccer.

6) Which clubs do you see hitting the top six this season?

Perth Glory and five others from a wide range of teams.

7) Players to watch out for at the Stallions?

Michael Thwaite, Nick Carle, Erick Anabalon.

8) How long do you see yourself playing the game?

As long as I still have a competitive edge and enjoy what I am doing.

9) Any thoughts of coaching after finishing up as a player?

Yes it has crossed my mind, although to what degree and capacity only the future will tell.

I know its hard for young players, but they should put a high priority on their education also whilst working towards a soccer career.

CHRIS JACKSON



One of the Football Kingz most consistent players.

1) How has pre-season gone for the Kingz?

All has gone well with the team all accounted for bar the Chelsea players. We are super fit this season and the team spirit is incredible, so we are really excited.

2) The link-up with Chelsea, explain the advantages of that?

Just having a club like Chelsea's name is a big plus, not to mention the opportunity for our players to trial with them and of course that we have the talent from their team.

3) There's a rumour going around that 2 Chelsea players could don the Kingz shirt this season, true?

At least one will be here ...possibly two.

4) What's the feeling like at the Kingz camp?

Our team spirit and camaraderie is amazing this year and we are having a lot of fun at training.

5) On a personal level, what do you hope to achieve from this season?

I hope to get into the top six playoffs, play consistently well and be a leader that the players look up to.

6) Can the Kingz make the top six this season is a burning question many Kiwis would like to know?

We have a great chance if we keep our current attitude and goals in place. We also have a couple of really good foreigners to help that.

7) Name some of the players to watch out for this season?

Paul Harries, Alex the Norwegian, Jeff Campbell and John Tambouris.

8) Has NZ football come a long way since joining up with the National League?

Yes undoubtedly. Having this tougher competition can only be a positive for NZ soccer.

9) On the international scene, how have the Kiwis approached the step-up before the 2006 World Cup qualifiers?

Its been tough with not many games organized or being cancelled. Plus with a lot of players overseas this is the next step in rising to the next level, internationally.

10) Explain the emotion of travelling from Auckland to Perth, as it is recorded as one of the longest ever matches in the world on a domestic front?

Its a bugger! We are so tired for days and on top of that its always so hot there. Any team who gets a result there is doing really well.



TURKS DEFEAT U23'S

Under 23's coach Frank Farina was pleased with his sides' performance despite going down 2-1 to highly rated Turkey at Inonu Stadium in Istanbul.

In what was an even game with few chances for either side, both Turkey goals came from free kicks, while Luke Wilshire scored Australia's goal from the penalty spot.

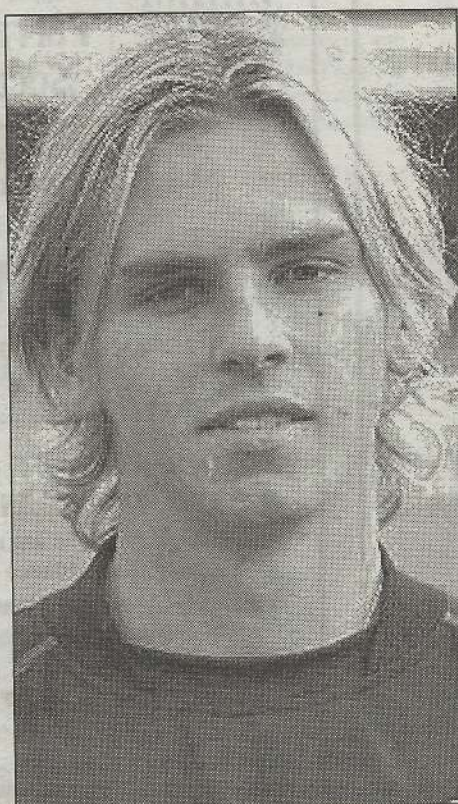
"Considering they (Turkey) are rated in the top three teams in Europe at this age level and have played something like 20 odd games together, our performance was generally very pleasing," Farina said following the match.

"To concede both goals from soft free kicks was really disappointing, but that is something we can work with more time together, and other than that we were pretty solid.

"We actually got in behind them much more than they did against us and I think the overall stats favoured us."

Australia's first chance came to Brett Holman in the 9th minute, but he was unable to get more onto a glancing header from Luke Wilshire's free kick and the ball went wide. This settled the side and Australia then enjoyed some good possession.

Australia was using the width of the field well and getting in behind the defence and getting some good crosses over, although Turkish defence was standing tall.



Striker Brett Holman starred for the Australian side's two-one loss to Turkey last week.

Turkey broke the deadlock in the 37th minute when they were awarded a soft free kick for a foul by Patrick Kisnorbo wide on the left. Again the inswinging free kick caused confusion in the Australian defence, the ball beating all the jumpers and hitting a stagnate Jon McKain on the leg and dribbling past Jones for an own goal.

Turkey went to the break a goal up, but Australia was unlucky to goal down having had more shots at goal and corner kicks.

Nine minutes after the break, Alex Brosque's persistence led to Australia being awarded a penalty kick. He harassed his direct opponent, who passed back to his keeper, who instead of clearing tried a clever pass back to his defender.

The defender inexplicably stuck his hand out to stop the ball and the referee had no choice but to award a penalty that Wilshire converted with ease.

Turkey then went two up in the 64th minute, after they were awarded a free kick on the edge of the box. Erdogan stepped up and hit a low shot that went underneath the jumping wall and Jones had no chance to stop.

Australia had good claims for a late penalty when substitute Scott McDonald chested down and as he was about to shoot was bundled over and predictably the local referee waved away Australia's claims for the penalty.

Despite the loss, Australia can heart considering this is the sides' second game together and they have only lost by a single goal to two of Europe's top three sides, who are in the middle of their qualifiers. In April, Australia lost 1-0 to Spain.

"While it is disappointing to lose both games, I think it proves we can compete against these teams and with more games, we can only get better as a team," added Farina.

MATCH STATISTICS

TURKEY 2

(Jon McKain o.g. 37', Haneft Erdogan 75')

AUSTRALIA 1

(Luke Wilshire 54')

Australia: Brad Jones (gk); Patrick Kisnorbo, Ljubo Milicevic (c), Jon McKain, Shane Cansdell-Sheriff; Ahmad Elrich, Luke Wilshire, Wayne Srhoj (Carl Valeri 73'), Alex Brosque (Scott McDonald 73'); Richard Garcia (Scott Tunbridge 61'), Brett Holman

Cautions: Kisnorbo 63'

Venue: Inonu Stadium, Istanbul

Crowd: 10,000 approx

RAISING THE ANTE AT SOUTH

By Peter Damalas

South Melbourne's chances in the coming National Soccer League have been bolstered by the recruitment of Adelaide City captain, Ante Kovacevic.

The 29 year old will provide a wealth of experience to the new look Lakeside outfit, as coach Stuart Munro attempts to build a balanced squad that will challenge for domestic honours.

While Kovacevic is looking ahead at a promising campaign for the Melbourne club after a disappointing 2002-2003 season, he is aware of the severe problems he has left behind in Adelaide.

"It has been controversy after controversy" he said.

Kovacevic joined Adelaide City from the Melbourne Knights after the departure of club stalwart and captain, Alex Tobin, and had assumed the leadership role vacated by the former Soccerroo captain.

"At that time Alex Tobin

had left, and the level of media publicity on this was quite surprising" he recalled. Kovacevic discussed the role of club president, Bob D'Ottavi, in the decreasing fortunes of South Australia's sole representative in the national league.

"After Tobin, other players had left and people did not want to be involved with the club. When he did ask for financial help, groups did not want to come on board," he said.

Kovacevic stated that the withdrawal of Adelaide City from the NSL was the result of years of gradual decline. "I am surprised that the club lasted as long as it did," he said.

Last season's finals campaign came at an extremely awkward time in the history of the Force. After the planned move to Norwood Oval from the spiritual home of Hindmarsh Stadium was scrapped, matters within the club finally reached boiling point two weeks before the

end of the season, with Adelaide City still in the hunt for a grand final berth.



Ante Kovacevic: South Melbourne's new tough guy.

Club captain, Kovacevic, was barred from playing after D'Ottavi allegedly labeled him a 'troublemaker', once he raised the issue of unpaid wages and superannuation to the players.

PFA Chief Executive, Brendan Schwab, was called

into a union meeting in Adelaide to discuss the matter, after which D'Ottavi attempted to pay off Kovacevic's contract.

Kovacevic stated that a number of players had left the club on equally bad terms.

But the dual championship winner is optimistic about the future of South Australian soccer in the post- Adelaide City era.

"It is remarkable that the new team has gotten off the ground in just two weeks" he said. "This was probably inspired by Bob D'Ottavi, who tried to deny the South Australian public national league soccer. I think this club can unite the soccer fraternity and bring the city of Adelaide back to where it belongs, and where it has been in the past" he said.

Looking ahead at this season, Kovacevic argues that the first rounds of the competition will not be as predictable as first expected.

"There will be surprises as teams need to learn how to

play together. Come half way though, I think the better sides will start to step up," he said.

Kovacevic is expected to shore up the centre of defence alongside club veteran, Mehmet Durakovic, the sole survivor of the senior team's defence from last season.

"We have decent experience in the squad, as well as some young talent and mid-range players, so we have great balance. Our strength lies in our attacking options- Boutsianis, Trimboli, Coveny and Curcija can cause problems. If we can get it right in defence, and give the new players time to gel, we should do very well.

"The club is brilliantly organised and run. Munro has a wealth of experience, his knowledge is remarkable and he puts on good sessions. We are not 100% right in terms of fitness, but we are almost there" he said.

He concluded by stating that South Melbourne would not be satisfied with a finals series finish.

Power doomed — Theodorakopoulos

Parramatta coach Nick Theodorakopoulos has declared his club doomed — despite assembling one of the best lists in NSL history for the upcoming season.

Parramatta coach Nick Theodorakopoulos has declared his club doomed — despite assembling one of the best lists in NSL history for the upcoming season.

The Power's five-year license runs out at the end of the 2003-04 season and its financial backers are pulling out of the sport.

Theodorakopoulos has ruled out any hope for the young club being thrown a financial lifeline before the expected revamp of the national competition next year.

"There is no future at Parramatta Power," he told AAP. "It is over, there is only 12 months to go. No hope what so ever."

Theodorakopoulos said the depressed state of the NSL meant that it was a poor option for businesses.

"We have a clear case last season where Parramatta Power made the top six for the first time in their history and it cost the club \$584,000 to participate," he said.

"Yet contracts were being made and signed giving bonuses to make the top six, what for, to cost the club more money."

"Competitions are all built on revenue from TV, and we pay \$40,000 to \$50,000 in affiliation fees to the league (to secure tv rights), you're kidding aren't you?"

"So don't blame the clubs and don't blame (Parramatta leagues club chief executive Denis) Fitzgerald and (Power chairman Alan) Overton at Parramatta, and don't blame the players."

"There is no marketing arm (at the NSL) no people leading by example, we don't have power when it comes to getting major sponsors."

"We were the first league to go national and we are the last league that TV wants to get involved with."

Theodorakopoulos has gathered an all-star cast at Parramatta, which kicks off its season at home against South Melbourne on September 20.

The NSL's big spenders have pilfered from all parts of the country, snapping up the likes of strikers Ante Milicic

and Fernando Rech, midfielders Andre Gumprecht, Simon Colosimo and Lucas Pantelis, and goalkeeper Clint Bolton.

Theodorakopoulos had his budget slashed by 20 per cent but said severe belt tightening across the league allowed him to snap up such quality personnel.

Source - AAP

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Soccer Australia Hall of Fame - 2003

Former Socceroos Milan Ivanovic, Steve O'Connor, Gary Cole, Col Bennett and retired soccer administrator Peter Gray headed a list last Wednesday as the 2003 inductees into the Soccer Australia Hall of Fame.

The full list of inductees for 2003 are Milan Ivanovic, Col Bennett, Gary Cole, Steve O'Connor, Roy Crowhurst, Theresa Deas, David Harding, Percy Lennard, Wally Savor (all players), Peter Gray, Betty Hoar, Les Murray, Sydney Storey, Ken Allen, Vito Cilauro, Denis Harlow, Joseph J Honeysett, Peter van Ryn (all non players).

The Soccer Australia Hall of Fame was established in 1999 and recognises both players and non-players for their contribution to the sport on a national basis.

Ted Simmons, a recognized man in the Australian soccer circles has been the man that has kept the hall of fame running.

His tireless and countless efforts in bringing forward this amazing hall of fame set-up on behalf of the Australian soccer world has been amazing.



Ted Simmons has been the man behind the operations of Australian soccer's hall of fame.

Simmons, an established journalist and AAP writer can be seen at various National League pitches this season covering matches for the prestigious wire service.

A system of awards exists at three distinct levels, with separate but equivalent groups for both 'on the field' and 'off the field' contributions.

1. Hall of Champions (players) / Hall of Honour (non players)

2. Medal of Excellence (players) / Roll of Honour (non players)

3. Award of Distinction (players) / Roll of Honour (non players)

PLAYERS HALL OF CHAMPIONS

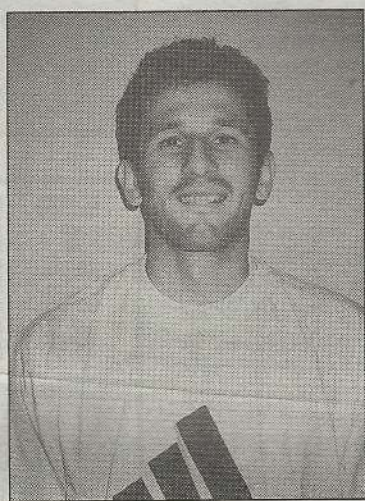
MILAN IVANOVIC

Born in Sivas, Yugoslavia 21-12-60, Ivanovic quickly displayed an affinity for soccer and worked his way through local clubs before joining Red Star Belgrade. He migrated to Australia in 1989 and joined Adelaide City in the NSL as a sweeper.

A quiet, efficient and thinking player, he soon established himself and made his international debut for Australia against Czechoslovakia in January 1991 in Melbourne. He was elected NSL Player of the Year in 1990 and was in the Adelaide NSL winning teams in 1991 and 1993.

Selected and played in the 1994 and

1998 World Cup campaigns and the 1998 Confederations Cup. In his final on-field appearance, he was named Australian captain against Japan in Adelaide, February 1998. He made 71 appearances for Australia, including 59 A internationals.



Milan Ivanovic

MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

COLIN BENNETT

Australian-born September 12, 1950. Signed by Brisbane Lions for the inaugural NSL season and made his debut as a defender, playing each season in full until 1983.

He was a powerful and uncompromising player who developed into a fine all-round defender. He was selected in the Socceroo squad for the match against China in August 1975 in his international debut. Bennett went on to play against the USSR, New Zealand, the 1976 Asian tour, Israel 1977 and the 1978 World Cup campaign.

He played 55 times for Australia, 31 full internationals and scored two goals.

GARY COLE

Born in England 5-2-56. Settled in Melbourne, playing striker for Ringwood City in the State League before joining Fitzroy where he scored 11 goals in the NSL's inaugural season in 1977.

Attracted selectors attention and was chosen to represent Victoria and as a member of the Australian Under 23 team.

He scored regularly, especially against touring teams and scored in his first senior international against Greece in Melbourne in June 1978.

Selected for the 1980 overseas tour, the 1984 World Cup campaign and also played against Czechoslovakia, England, Mexico, Israel and New Zealand. Scored seven goals against Fiji in 1981, which was a World Cup record until 2001.

Made 38 appearances (19 A Internationals) for Australia scoring 21 goals. Played 240 NSL matches, scoring 109 goals and was leading NSL goalscorer in 1980 and 1981.

STEVE O'CONNOR

Born Sydney 24-11-54. Joined Eastern Suburbs-Hakoah where his height and physique marked him as a central defender. Playing in winning Easts sides until the NSL commencement in 1977 where the club won four of the first six titles.

Dominant in the air and hard to pass which led to international debut against

New Zealand in 1979 and selection against England in Sydney in June 1983.

A member of the Merlion Cup winning team in Singapore late 1983 and toured China and Europe 1984.

Also played against Israel and Scotland in the 1986 World Cup campaign. Appeared 44 times for Australia, 15 A class and three goals. Currently head coach of the men's soccer program at the Australian Institute of Sport.



Steve O'Connor

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

ROY CROWHURST

**THERESA DEAS
DAVID HARDING
PERCY LENNARD
WALLY SAVOR**

NON PLAYERS HALL OF HONOUR

PETER GRAY

Australian-born 24-10-1942, Peter Gray spent 41 years in Australian soccer as a player and administrator.

He played nine years as a goalkeeper in the 1960s for a number of NSW Soccer Federation clubs.

Upon retirement he linked with the Cronulla Seagulls Junior club in 1975, becoming president two years later before earning the presidency of the Sutherland Sharks in the NSW State League.



Peter Gray

He was elected a Board member of the NSW Federation in 1986 and was president from 1991 to 2002.

Elected Soccer Australia Commissioner in 1995, which led to more than 100 official appearances involving the national teams. He was Head of Soccer at the

Atlanta Olympic Games and tour or delegation leader at World and Confederation Cup tournaments.

Gray was elected Life Member of the NSW Federation and two Sydney clubs before retiring in January 2002. He had an ability to relate well with players and officials at every level of the game in a significant contribution to the sport.

ROLL OF HONOUR (Distinguished Contribution)

BETTY HOAR

One of the pioneers of women's soccer in Victoria and a long-time involvement with the national women's body.

Beginning 1974, she has had an active role with every Victorian women's management committee, elected to the national association in 1979 as treasurer through to 1986 and remained on the board in various other positions.

Over a 10-year period, she managed Australian teams to New Zealand, Hawaii, New Caledonia and Dallas. Awarded Life Membership in 1984 of the Victorian Womens Association and the Australian Womens Association, 2001 the Victorian Soccer Federation and awarded the 2000 Australian Sports Medal.

LES MURRAY

Born in Hungary in 1945, his early years were spent following the famous Hungarian team of the 1950s.

His playing career was interrupted when he migrated to Australia in 1957 and settled in Sydney where he resumed playing with Sydney club St George Budapest.



Les Murray

He moved into journalism in Sydney with the Fairfax group until an opportunity arose in 1980 to join SBS Television. Toured in 1984 with the national team to China and Europe. Has presented regular weekly programs on soccer for SBS, been compere for major awards nights and author of articles and books on the world game.

SYDNEY STOREY

Long serving administrator who had a run of 42 years at top State and national level. A product of the Balmain (Sydney) club who played in minor matches for Australia on the 1922 tour of New Zealand.

He became secretary of the NSW

Association in 1922 until 1928 when he was elected president of the Australian Football Association. He held the position until 1963 when the Federation took control.

Storey worked hard to bring teams to Australia and was successful in organising visits by New Zealand, Canada, England Amateurs, India, England and South Africa as well as various club teams.

ROLL OF HONOUR (Meritorious Contribution)

KEN ALLEN

Born England, arrived in Australia in 1973 and appointed to National Referees panel in 1975. Settled in Canberra and retired as a referee in 1991 after handling three NSL grand finals as well as touring international teams.

Became a referees inspector, elected national and ACT president of the AASRF and then inaugural deputy chairman of the State Referees Commission.

VITO CILAURO

Italian-born in 1930 and migrated to Melbourne in 1957. Club delegate to the Victorian Federation, elected State League chairman from 1976 to 1988 when elected VSF chairman and representative to the Australian Soccer Federation where he became Deputy Chairman. Toured overseas with national teams, Life Member and Patron of the VSF and chairman of the Appeals Board.

DENIS HARLOW

Long record as player, coach, administrator, historian. Born Derby (UK) 11-6-38 and settled in Adelaide in 1960. State representative, 400 games with Adelaide clubs, State staff coach, conducted courses and elected president of the South Australian Coaches Association. Appointed by FIFA as World Youth official, SOCOG soccer member, managed State and national teams.

Chairman State Honours Committee and recently produced book on South Australian soccer history.

JOSEPH J HONEYSETT

A major influence on the development of soccer in Tasmania. Honeysett, a retired British army colonel, arrived in Hobart in the early 1900s and helped establish Tasmania's oldest club, South Hobart in 1910.

He was founder secretary of the Tasmanian Football Association. Manager of the Tasmanian team to visit NSW in 1912, commenced the State North v South encounters and helped expand the code throughout the State.

PETER VAN RYN

From Holland, born 18-5-17, arrived Australia 1950 and began a 22 years involvement as a physiotherapist in soccer.

Stayed with Hakoah Sydney for 21 years and physio and equipment officer for the Australian team for 11 years from 1970-80, including three World Cup campaigns.

Lectured at soccer camps, freely assisted local and touring clubs and introduced the current system of close consultation between staff for medical treatment and equipment.

1974 Australian World Cup Re-Union Dinner

By John Economos

ON the evening of 13th November 1973, in the steamy atmospheric conditions of the main Stadium of Hong Kong, the Australian World Cup team embossed our nation's name in Soccer history.

The Australian team just had to defeat the mobile and steel-toughened South

Koreans to qualify for our very first, (and to this very day only), World Cup Finals.

For it was on this very night that the Late Jimmy Mackay, Australia's wiry central midfielder, uncharacteristically

unleashed from 35 metres a rocket-dipping drive that crashed high into the South Korean net.

Mackay's famous strike handed Australia a 0-1 heroic win which sent our proud nation hurtling into the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany for the first time ever.

Back in that era Oceania Qualifiers didn't exist for Australia.

To make it to the World Cup Finals was extremely tough for Australia.

For starters there were no qualifiers played against cream puff, coconut, opponents such as Samoa, Tonga, Cooke Islands, Tahiti, Papua New Guinea.

Secondly, back in those days, 16 nations only, not 32 as today, could qualify.

Australia had to battle against extremely tenacious opponents of the calibre of Iran, Iraq and South Korea.

The Australian warriors of that era included unyielding super stars such as captain Peter Wilson, Johnny Watkiss, Johnny Warren, Jimmy Fraser, Ray Baartz, Australia's best-ever twin full-backs Dougie Utjesenovic and Col (Bunny), Curran, Manfred Schaefer, Jimmy Mackay, Ray Richards, Jimmy Rooney, Adrian Alston, Branko Buljevic, Ernie Campbell, Atti Abonyi.

These Australian legends of Soccer had grim steely characters, fighting qualities, penetration, fire-power.

Mission?

Make it to the 1974 World Cup Finals.

Failure?

Unquestionably, not an option.

To mark this historic occasion, (exactly 30 years later to the very same night in that Stadium in Hong Kong), the Australian World Cup Re-Union Dinner is now being blue-printed.

The venue for this wonderful and nostalgic evening, will be the plush bay-side Italian eatery, Le

Montage, in the inner western suburb of Sydney, Leichhardt.

At this spectacular glittering affair, members of Australia's historic 1974 World Cup Finals, squad will be re-assembled.

As well, it's envisaged that a very special guest, (a former European World Cup player), will be flown into Sydney for this memorable Re-Union Dinner.

The then National coach, Rale Rasic, who guided Australia to the 1974 World Cup Finals, stated to ABSW last night:

"We had almost booked Holland's international legend, Johan Cryuff, but his agent phoned us back that he would be unavail-

able to travel to Sydney in the month of November.

"However at this stage we have two other famous options pencilled in to bring to Sydney for this wonderful historic Re-Union Dinner," Rasic pledged.

Tickets go on sale this week but obviously will be limited. No less than 12 Corporate Tables, of 10, have already been booked for the evening.

Preferential bookings for the 13th November Re-Union Dinner can be made by phoning 0416 288 627.



Australia's ace 1974 World Cup central striker, (Adrian (Noddy) Alston, head-glancing goal wards at the Sydney Sports Ground in 1973 against World Cup qualifying opponents Iraq. The Iraqi captain and sweeper, (No 3) Abid Kadom belatedly moves in to shutdown Alston. Australia crushed Iraq 3-1 on this day.

Australia's Best Shooter, In Soccer

By John Economos

ANTON CERMAK, was a lanky, blond 36 year old Czechoslovakian who together with his girlfriend Jana, (later to become his beloved wife), fled his native nation to migrate to Sydney via Vienna in January of 1969.

Just a year before, the Russians had invaded the tiny country of Czechoslovakia as tanks rumbled their way into Prague. Such a ruthless invasion, forced Anton into making his decision to flee in search of a new homeland where personal freedom prevailed.

Together with his few belongings, Anton brought his powerful passion for Soccer to his newly adopted Australia.

Highly talented with photographic skills, Anton combined these skills with his passion for Soccer to start

earning his living as a professional.

In his very own words, Anton stated: "It was a hobby which became a career."

The lanky blond Czech first approached Soccer World, (the now defunct green paper), for employment.

Within a short time, John Fairfax, the publisher of the giant Sydney Morning Herald, extended Anton a fulltime job, shooting, for the broadsheet daily newspaper.

Within months the diligent Anton Cermak, together with his radar-like camera lenses, caught spectacular action shots on Soccer pitches across Sydney.

These quality sports shots rapidly gained Anton Cermak the reputation of being the nation's best shooter, in Australian Soccer.

The silently spoken former Czech, who had a deep heavily accented soft voice, was constantly spotted at Sydney



Anton Cermak, (this time in front of his camera), inside the dressing rooms of the Sydney Sportsground in 1972, with the World famous Pelé after Australia had drawn the match 2-2 with the brilliant Brazilians from Santos F.C.

Soccer matches lugging his steel-case strapped over his left shoulder with a battery of cameras hanging from around his neck.

To the then Sydney Soccer fraternity that got to know him well, it came as no surprise that over the years Anton's high quality sharp photographic work earned him many awards in Sports photography including the prestigious British Press Photographer Of The Year.

In 1972, Anton married his lovely Jana, also a talented photographer.

The happy couple resided in Sydney's beach suburb of Bondi.

The same year, Anton trudged out to the old Sydney Sports Ground to cover the exhibition match, Australia vs Santos F.C. the famous team from Brasil that was spearheaded by the living legend, Pelé.

Anton for years had idolised the brilliant Brazilian

Pelé.

At the end of the game which had ended in an electric 2-2 draw in front of a jammed packed crowd of 32,500, Anton went inside the Santos dressing rooms where he personally met his Brazilian goal-ace hero.

Two years later, Anton travelled to West Germany with the Australian

National team for the 1974 World Cup Finals to wire, back his famous Black and White, action negative shots from Hamburg.

Sadly, ABSW this week must report that Anton Cermak on the 20th of last month at his Central Queensland coastal town of Mackay, aged 71, silently passed away.

Following a heavy fall, Anton Cermak suffered a severe head injury which plunged him into a deep coma from which he never recovered.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

PLENTY OF RESPECT FOR OPPONENT -

Wolves coach John Turner sees the opening game at WIN Stadium on Friday 19/9, as a very tough clash. Sydney United had excellent results in pre-season trials as the Wolves had also and in their early friendly drew with them at Crehan Park.

A full squad of 20 players carries the hopes of Wollongong's NSL team. John Turner has worked tirelessly to prepare one of the best squads he has assembled in his years of NSW coaching and believes they are about 75% up to best possible form with games to come the team will get better, quoting the coach.

The difficulty now is to select the starting eleven for Friday night - not everybody will be happy as the coach points out in a month or two most players are called up when changes are required due to injuries or tactical substitutions.

The last week before kick-off will be hectic with each day training - every single player keyed up for a successful start. Illawarra's soccer

fraternity needs to turn up in numbers to support their NSL team.

John Turner and his staff believe they are ready to tackle any opponent looking forward with confidence to achieve a good result with plenty of respect for their opponent on Friday at WIN Stadium.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CRITICAL IMPORTANT -

The future of Wollongong's NSL club is based on their successful Youth Grade. Last year's success in reaching the Youth League Grand Final and a very character-building overseas trip playing in a FIFA approved youth tournament is a result of the Wolves Development

Officer's engagement to the job.

Eddie Tesoro is again at the helm of the club's youth grade coaching programme, assisted by team manager Glen Blain.

A squad of 19 youngsters D.O.B. 1984/85/86/ and 1987 as the youngest has been selected - 10 of them locally produced juniors including several from the Wolves winter competition U/17 team.

The full squad is Tommy Arcaba

(goal keeper), Michael Robinson, Wade Scherini, Nathan Abel, Michael Blain, Michael Andrews, Ian Hall, David Boscoscuro, Blake Oliver, Lance Barrie, Matt Werakso, Tony Dulevski, Ruben Zadkovic, Daniel Trenevski, Matt Gordon, Ricky Bertakis, Tynan Diaz, Daniel Miladinski, Serhat Pakyuz.

These youngsters deserve support, not only public recognition by the fans but also business sponsors.

The Wolves Youth team earned respect in Europe playing against top opposition which resulted in another invitation to enter next year's youth FIFA tournament in France plus additional invitations to play in Spain, England and Germany thus spreading the name of Wollongong City among the elite of European soccer clubs.

Any supporter intended to travel with the boys to Europe in April 2004 for about 30 days are welcomed, contact the Wolves office to register your nomination, phone 42 26 39 88.

PREMIER LEAGUE -

Port Kembla goes straight into the Grand Final played on Sunday 28/9, at WIN Stadium while Kemblawarra have another chance against Dapto to appear at the season's highlight to face Port again.

Port Kembla had to struggle to tumble Kemblawarra in extra time - the score was 1:1 at full time, first

Kemblawarra taking the lead with a long-range shot from Chris Lansdowne and had numerous opportunities to increase their lead but were unable to beat Port's keeper Matthew Nash and some stern defence. Shane McGirr equalised and then scored the 'golden goal' in extra time to book Port's place in the Grand Final for the sixth time. They will rest one week, welcomed by coach Adrian Alston who has several players nursing injuries.

John Fleming of Kemblawarra needs now to be ready for a tough battle with Dapto for a place in the last game of the year.

Dapto won 1:0 over Coniston Lions to eliminate them, ending Coniston's season. The match resulted in two players being sent-off and one badly injured.

Midfield player James Rylie scored the winning goal to keep his team alive in the play-offs.

They now face Kemblawarra - an opponent they lost 1:0 at home and won 2:1 away against in the competition proper. It promises to be a close encounter with the better form on the day prevailing.

In the lower grades Port Kembla succeeded against Kemblawarra in extra time in the Youth League, claiming one spot in the Grand Final while Picton Rangers succeeded against Coniston Lions and face now Kemblawarra.

Blue Eagles are Premier League Champions

The Adelaide Blue Eagles are the 2003 Premier League Champions after defeating Metro Stars 2-1 in the Premier League Grand Final at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Metro Stars went into the Grand Final as hot favourites after taking out the minor premiership and only losing one game all season.

However, the favouritism has worked against the Metro Stars who were brought undone by a counter attacking Blue Eagles.

The Blue Eagles soaked up the early pressure from the dominant Metro Stars and then opened the scoring against the run of play through Pirone. In the second half Kierno sealed the game for the Blue Eagles by finishing off a classic double 1-2 with Budin.

The Metro Stars scored a consolation goal in the 95th minute through a lovely Arione chip which embarrassed a stranded Delucia in goal for the Blue Eagles.

The Metro Stars will be disappointed by their performance in what was a dour grand final. They dominated much of the game but failed to create goal scoring opportunities and never looked dangerous on the ball. In contrast the Blue Eagles were very solid in defence and their counter attacking game exposed the over confident Metro defence.

Tony Zito was named Man of the Match.

Congratulations to the Adelaide Blue Eagles - 2003 Premier League Champions.

News From THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Graham Cooke

There now appears to be a second syndicate seeking to bring the National Soccer League back to Canberra, but local officials are being kept in the dark about both of them.

A frustrated Soccer Canberra president, Walter Valeri, said that he had heard of the second bid during a casual conversation at a recent Premiership match.

"The people doing the talking seemed to be quite clear about their facts, but officially we have heard nothing from anybody," he said.

"It's a bit annoying because they will have to come to us eventually, and even if they are not ready to go public they should be talking to us privately. I'm not sure that this endless speculation and gossip is good for the game."

The initial bid is being fronted by Chris Tanner, a former official of the ill-fated Canberra Cosmos, now a player agent. He says he is unable to name the individuals in the consortium who are "four guys with a lot of money and a passion for soccer".

Nothing is known about the second group.

Valeri said that any bid would have to be soundly based, as Soccer Australia requires a five-year business plan.

But he was also unsure about the future of the NSL with many clubs slashing their wage bills and putting players on part-time contracts.

Belconnen Blue Devils coach Chris Tanzey has made his first signings - defender David Milin from Canberra Deakin and Canberra Olympic midfielder Alex Castro.

Tanzei said they were both highly experienced players who would have key roles for the club in the coming NSW Premier League season.

"David has had a good season in the ACT Premier League and has been a commanding presence in the centre of Deakin's defence," he said. "He uses the ball well and has often been responsible for starting moves that have led to goals."

"Alex was in the NSL for Wollongong Wolves last summer and has also played for the Cosmos and in Adelaide, but the thing that really impressed me was his desire to play in Canberra at the highest level possible."

"He can score goals and he has a good engine, just the kind of player we need if we are to pass that psychological barrier and move on from being a fringe finals team to a possible grand finalist or winner."

Neither Castro nor Milin, nor any other signings the Devils will make in the next few weeks, will find their fortunes this season. Tanzei said a \$100,000 salary cap meant that if anything, wages would be lower than last year.

"It is a fact of life, but I think the players have got the message," he said. "Some are not too happy, but there isn't anything we can do about it."

"We are now in the process of talking to the players we want to retain from last season. There could be a couple more new signings, but obviously the cap is going to constrain us."

"However, there are other things we can do for the players to make up for the shortage of cash, like providing the very best training facilities and making sure they are well looked after. We may not be getting professional wages, but that is no reason why we can't have a professional attitude."

O'Connor Knights are expected to replace University of Canberra in next season's Premiership after finishing top of Division One by six points.

That was achieved despite having to forfeit the last two games after the entire club was penalised for disciplinary infringements among its lower division sides.

Asked if the infringements, in which players were charged with assaults on referees, would affect the Knight's promotion chances, a spokesman for Soccer Canberra said he did not believe it would.

"Obviously it will be considered when the time comes to make a decision, but the first division side were not involved in any of the incidents," he said. "The Knights are keen to come up and the University have struggled all season, so I am not expecting them to be keen to continue in the top division. Canberra City finished runner up to the Knights, with Canberra Deakin third and White Eagles fourth."

Cooma's young striking star, Nathan Caldwell, is likely to be worrying defences in the National Youth League with

Canberra Deakin this summer.

He confirmed after Cooma's last game of the season that he had had approaches from the Blue

Devils to play in the NSW competition, "but I am with Deakin at the moment and I am leaning towards staying there".

ACT WRAP

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Deakin crashed to their first ACT Premiership loss of the season and Gungahlin Juventus returned to top form as the competition's finals series began at the weekend.

Deakin were overwhelmed 4-0 by second placed Canberra Olympic in the major semi-final and must now play Juventus whose vast finals experience proved too much for Tuggeranong United's youngsters in a 3-0 win.

Coach Ian Heywood said Juventus had not lost two matches in a row in the four years he had been at the club, so after last week's upset beating by Cooma, perhaps this result was inevitable.

They took the lead after 20 minutes on a rain swept Greenway Oval, a simple goal which saw United's defence ball-watching at a free kick, Niall Stoddart popping up to prod the ball home.

Just four minutes later it was 2-0, a corner from Marcial Munoz being headed home by George Cattanach, rising above a static defence.

From the next attack Juventus could have sealed the game as Steve Lazzari set up Munoz for a cracking drive that hit the underside of the bar and came out again.

Tuggeranong supporters appealed for a penalty when Matt Menser was toppled in the area, but referee Gavin Martin had no hesitation in waving play on. That was a prelude to United's best effort of the game, just on half time, as Menser struck a fine shot against the bar, with goalkeeper Nathan Denham a whisker ahead of Loric David in the race for the rebound.

United seemed to have a better case for a penalty in the 63rd minute when Oscar Zamora appeared to bring down Ben Doyle, but once again Martin was not interested.

Juventus administered the coup de grace in the 69th

minute, Lazzari breaking his two-match drought by heading home for a corner, and the striker almost set up George Cattanach for a fourth two minutes later, but Cattanach hesitated long enough for goalkeeper Brett Dickens to smother the ball.

United coach Jimmy Bland said his team got what it deserved on the day. "When it comes to finals football you need that blend of youth and experience, but with our oldest player being 24, we simply did not have it," he said.

"Our brains were in our legs, we did a lot of running but not much of it was very intelligent. The one consolation I have for the players is that in 10 years they'll still be playing finals football, while most of Juventus' side will have retired."

Heywood said he had anticipated that Tuggeranong would be relying on solid defence. "As a result we practiced quick corners and free kicks during the week, and it came off," he said.

"We have strength in depth - for instance there was no need to risk playing Geoff Howarth, who is still recovering from flu. Tuggeranong were able to match us in a few positions, but not in every one."

"It was a miserable day for soccer, but we chiseled away and got the result we deserved."

Olympic coach Topica Popovich said his side put in their best performance of the season to take the short path through to the grand final. Once again the goals were shared around with Ellie Salloum, Vince Bodo, Steve Hayes and Alex Castro finding the back of the net.

Deakin who began strongly, but faded, will have to face Juventus in the preliminary final without Andy Rakic, who was sent off in the second half. That match will be played at Hawker Oval on Sunday.

Report on the English FA Youth Coaches Course

The FA Youth Coaches course was conducted at the National Training Centre "Lilleshall" in Shropshire from the 10th to the 16th August 2003.

Having arrived in England on Wednesday the 6th August and after spending some time with my family, I went to London and spent two days, the 7th & 8th, with Charlton Athletic Football Club at their Sparrow Road training ground at New Eltham.

The invitation to Charlton Athletic was extended to me by their Academy Director Mr. Mick Browne.

Whilst at the training centre I observed mainly the Under 18/19 squad training and also some of the First team training.

There was nothing new or different just variations on themes that we are working on here in Australia. However the one thing that did strike me was that Mick (Mick Browne) used the questioning technique a lot when working with his Under 18 /19 and he was often seeking their opinions on how that they thought the session was going and where it was going. This was evident in all Mick's work and it produced a healthy dialogue with the players.

The main theme of Mick's work was to rectify the attacking shape that had been missing when they had played in a recent tournament in Norway.

The first team was working on fitness in the mornings and shape in the afternoon in a full 11 v 11 game. All members of the coaching staff were very friendly and accommodating. On Sunday the 10th August I drove to Lilleshall to register for the Youth Coaches course which began at 12 noon on the dot exactly.

Mission Statement for the FA Youth Coaches course.

To provide a learning experience that will stimulate debate, raise awareness and broaden the thinking of coaches working in Football Academies and Centres of Excellence in the Under11 and 12-16 age range, while taking account of, and having respect for, their views and expertise.

After lunch and registration we had the official welcome and the course video followed by an interesting lecture and discussion on the "Four Corners of Player Development" from the senior instructor Mr. John Allpress who is the National Player Development Coach.

The four corners mentioned are Technical (technique and understanding) Psychological (personal and performance) Physical (growth and performance)

and Social (internal and external)

After dinner we were split up into groups where we were asked to come up with A Player Development Philosophy. Each groups work was written on butcher's paper and displayed on the walls for all to share.

Day Two / August 11th.

The day began with a lecture on Positive Learning Environments which focused on the training and games being Player First, Player Centered, Player Driven, and Winning Second.

The environments which the players are working in should be safe, secure, inclusive, allow ownership, be enjoyable, give choices and be challenging.

This was discussed by the group with some people contributing more than others but it raised some good and interesting points. One such point that I rose was that players should feel secure enough to experiment, make mistakes and ask questions. This was received quite well by the group and many of the guys then came out of their shells and said that that is what they encourage with their squads.

Other points were that everyone should participate and that the organization should be inclusive and flexible enough to cater for odd numbers. The work needed to be enjoyable and enjoyment comes from an appropriate challenge successfully met.

After the break we then went out onto the pitches for Games as the Teacher.

The afternoon sessions were all in the lecture room and consisted of How Players Learn and Effective Use of Visual Aids.

It was readily agreed through discussion in groups and then as a whole that players learn through a number of ways, some of which are as follows: - correct practice, high quality teaching, trial and error, parental interest / encouragement, peers, media, TV, Magazines, video, video games, questions / feedback, appropriate challenge, repetition, repetition of opportunity, appropriate goal setting, culture and excellent role models.

The evening session after dinner was in our groups again but this time we were asked to discover our preferred coaching and learning style through completing the attached form.

We were then asked, in our groups, to give a presentation on a visual aid for training.

My group was a little hesitant with ideas so I suggested that we used the "One touch analysis passing test."

Simply put, the squad is divided into two groups of

say eight each group and one group play 4 v 4 in a 10 x 10 area.

The other group of eight is also divided into 4 v 4 and each player has to watch and record the passes of a player in the middle. When the first group's time is up they are given immediate feedback on their efforts and then they do the same to the second group.



Richard Evans: Coaching & Development Soccer NSW — Western Branch

This process is repeated so that both groups get two attempts at playing in a 4 v 4 game with immediate feedback given after both games. The rationale being that after feedback from the first game the player's performance improves in the second.

We also discussed and presented a match analysis tool used to plot a player's specific runs with and without the ball and his range of passes.

Day Three / August 12th.

The first session today was the Aspects of Growth & Development & Introduction to Motor Control.

"We are born with only rudimentary motor abilities, and the rest have to be learned by active practice during infancy, childhood and thereafter"

Motor Control is...

A field of study covering sensory, perceptive & motor functions.

The name given to the functions of mind and body that combine to govern posture & movement this led us nicely into our second session.

The second session was conducted in our groups and covered Developing Balance & Co-ordination in the gymnasium.

In our groups again we were given a scenario of an injured player and we had to develop remedial programs which assist him in regaining his balance and co-ordination abilities.

The third session after lunch was again in our groups and in the gymnasium where once again we were given a scenario of an injured player having a sportsman's hernia who would not be operated on until the end of the season.

We had to provide at least three examples of exercises he could do to improve his

hours of deliberate practice daily for 10 years.

"Insanity"

'Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results'

The next two sessions, three and four, were both out on the park with the first session being on Developing speed and power and after

Coaching here in Australia.

Rod's presentation was based on the theme of Teaching Games for Understanding which is closely related to our Game Sense programme.

After the morning break the whole group went outside where Rod gave a practical demonstration on Teaching Games for Understanding.

Lunch was taken from 12.30 to 1.30 after which we were back on the park for:

Games with Multiple Outcomes. Staff Demonstrations and Group Preparation.

Multiple Outcomes and Group Presentations.

As the topic suggests the groups now had to present sessions that had multiple outcomes.

Multiple outcomes can be achieved by manipulating certain constraints in the session or game.

Dinner and a free evening to reflect on our lot.

Day Six / August 15th.

Following on from yesterday's group presentations and multiple outcome sessions we started the morning out on the park looking at Problem Solving sessions with the staff and group preparation.

This concept is based on the coach setting up the session with area size, numbers and goals and then when and if there is a problem it is up to the players to solve the problem through "guided discovery."

After the break we were back in our groups and we had to come up with and present our own problem solving sessions. As you can imagine 54 coaches split into groups of six everyone wanted to get out on the park and present, which was good.

Due to the sessions going overtime the lunch was cut short and we went straight into the Psychology presentations back in our group rooms.

One of the situations that we were asked to deal with was as follows:

A Case Study.

Setting the scene.

An Under 11 team is going away to play in a tournament. Within the squad there is a group of seven players who all live in the same area, go to the same school and are friends outside of football. For this particular tournament one of this group of friends has not been selected. This is the first time that this has happened. A player who is not local, and is not part of the network of friends has replaced him. It is a week before the tournament. You are the coach travelling with the team.

The Problem

The group of friends is upset about their mate being left behind. They begin to isolate the player who has been selected. They stop talking to him, do not pass him the ball in training, and make him look inadequate. This results in the player not wanting to go away and play in the tournament.

The Solution?

This problem produced some lively debate amongst all the groups.

Dinner and then a review of days 5 and 6.

Day Seven / August 16th.

This morning was the last morning and we were in our groups to discuss the Learning Cycle our group tasks and closure letters.

After the morning break we watched the course video and reviewed and evaluated the course.

Lunch and Depart.

My thanks to Soccer NSW for allowing me to attend this course and to Soccer NSW Western Branch for their generous funding allowance for the course.

Yours truly,

Richard A. Evans.
Manager of Coaching and Development.
Soccer NSW
— Western Branch

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FRIENDS TO RIVALS



Fighting for that coveted central midfield spot - best of mates Anthony Doumanis (Left) and George Nohra (Right) will be at their best for club Sydney United.
(Photo By Carlos Furtado)

By Peter Damalas

The 2003-2004 season represents a new beginning for Sydney United.

While the club have lost the services of a few first team regulars, including giant goalkeeper Vanja Ivesa and midfield schemer, Louis Brain, the exodus is unlikely to hamper the team as it has done in the past. The players brought in will provide depth rather than the bear bones of a squad.

Supporters at Edensor Park have good reason to be optimistic, considering that the majority of the senior squad have been retained, with vital backing provided by the youth team.

Coach Grant Lee is looking at establishing an attacking style of play in a team that have traditionally been goal-shy. Two players that will figure prominently in Lee's plans are Anthony Doumanis and George Nohra.

The two midfielders, both twenty-one, are good friends off the pitch but may have to fight for the one attacking pivot role in the starting eleven.

Doumanis made a name for himself in the National Soccer League during the second half of last season, scoring a handful of goals and displaying leadership in the attacking third of the pitch. He will be favourite to hang on to the 'Number 10' role, with Nohra pushing him all the way.

"I wouldn't say it was a rivalry" Doumanis said. "I'm sure that we can both play at the same time".

Doumanis mentioned that the team are likely to adopt a similar formation to last season, with a playmaker sitting behind the two strikers. He emphasised that Sydney United will build on their famed team work ethic for this season.

"We are a solid team with close knit players. Our defence is very solid and we are hard working. Sometimes the hard working teams go on with it."

"We are not a full time club, and we train three to four times a week, but we do get a lot out of these sessions. We beat Parramatta and we have conceded very few goals in the pre season, so we must be doing something right" he said.

Nohra, a former Olympic and Wollongong Wolves player, spent last season at both Adelaide Galaxy and Canterbury-Marrickville in the state league. The creative talent has been able to settle in with Sydney United after his move from South Australia.

"It has been more secure. I've enjoyed training and I am working in a good atmosphere" he said.

While United played with the one striker (Sean Babic) and one playmaker (Doumanis) for much of last season in a defensive set-up, Nohra believes that he will have the opportunity to play alongside

his good friend.

"We can attack together. I think we are most dangerous when we play at the same time. We've got to create goals as well as score them" he said.

Certainly, Grant Lee will need both players to be at their best to ease the goalscoring load on the centre forwards.

But Nohra is optimistic about both his and the team's chances.

"We've been playing pretty well. We have had a couple of draws and wins in trial matches, and if we can maintain the same eleven, we will be very good" he said.

EPPING CROWNED NUMBER ONE

This year's Puma Cup decider was a final of a different kind with it being the first time in six years so not have Bossley Park and Westfields fighting it out.

It would also be the first time in eleven years that Westfields would not hold the trophy after they exited the competition in the semi-final stage against Epping.

Westfields' conquerers took on Lambdon High School from Newcastle who had made quite a reputation for themselves after being named runners-up in last years Bill Turner Cup.

The game started at a frenetic pace with both teams struggling to get their foot on the ball on the slippery Melita Stadium surface. However it was Epping that calmed themselves better and began to dominate proceedings. Epping broke the deadlock about twenty minutes in after Adam Biddle whipped in a dangerous free-kick which Tyler Simpson finished after a goal-mouth scramble.

They continued to press with a Lambdon attack very rare in the first half. It was a physical encounter with the referee brandishing six yellow cards in the opening half.

However Lambdon defended courageously and the teams went in at the break at 1-0.

Lambdon started the second half the brighter of the two sides with Epping struggling to find their pattern. However when Matthew Peatey's corner kick entered the Lambdon net untouched Epping began to play by the clock. Epping frustrat-

ed Lambdon by keeping the ball and when Jordan Simpson ripped through the heart of the Lambdon defence to make it 3-0 that sealed the title for Epping.

The full-time whistle blew and the celebrations began for the new Combined High School champions. Congratulations to Jordan Simpson who was given the Johnny Warren award for

Man Of The Match. Congratulations to Epping and coach Mr David Erwin who also was behind Epping's winning Turner Cup campaign in 2000.

Epping squad: #1 William Tan, #3 Stephen Fotiadis, #4 Geoffrey Turner, #5 Michael Mouyis (c), #6 Will Thom, #7 Matthew Peatey, #8 Tyler Simpson, #9 Jordan Simpson, #11 Stephen Kayes, #12 Gilan Widders, #13 Adam Biddle, #14 James Thelwell, #15 James Thom, #16 Andrew Chater, #18 Brent Bates, #19 Marc Roberts.

Road To The Final

Round 1: bye
Round 2: 10-0 Marsden
Round 3: 3-0 Chatswood
Round 4: 3-2 Freshwater
Round 5: 2-0 Asquith
Round 6: 5-2 Kiama
Quarter-final: 4-0 Koorringal
Semi-final: 3-1 Westfields
Final: 3-0 Lambdon



BILL TURNER CUP and BILL TURNER TROPHY



BILL TURNER CUP (BOYS) GRAND FINAL

Westfields Sports High (Sydney) 4
(Jason Trifiro 9m, Tayfun Buyukokpru 28m, Troy Roberts 46m, Rajiv Ghedia 56m)
Kelvin Grove State High (Brisbane) 0

Westfields Sports High, after a five year absence from a final, won their fourth Bill Turner Cup with a 4-0 win over Brisbane's Kelvin Grove State College.

From over 500 High Schools both sides, along with beaten semi-finalists St Edwards of East Gosford and Griffith Catholic College, contested the 25th Bill Turner Cup Finals series.

Westfields beat Griffith 8-0 on Tuesday while Kelvin Grove accounted for St Edwards 1-0 in the semi-finals.

Westfield lead 2-0 at the break in the Grand Final through sharp goals to Jason Trifiro and skipper Tayfun Buyukokpru. Troy Roberts and Rajiv Ghedia rounded out the scoring for the well drilled lads from Westfield.

Westfields have now won the bill Turner Cup in 1995, 1997 and 1998.

Buyukokpru and Rohan Wilson from Griffith shared the Auscraft Medals Star Player Award.

This is the third time two players have shared the award.

In 1992 Paul Ciobo (Mt Maria, Brisbane) and Jason Iles (Oxley High, Tammworth) shared the coveted award. In 1995 Victor Costabile (Holy Spirit, Bellambi) and Chris Tanchewski (Lambton High) were joint winners.

"We have been frustrated that we have not been able to be successful for about five years now," Westfields coach Trevor Morgan said.

"Whilst winning the Bill Turner Cup is not the be all to end all, but it is one of the best ways to promote the school."

BILL TURNER TROPHY (GIRLS) GRAND FINAL

Cavendish Road Selective High (Brisbane) 1
(Kirsty Watters 31m)
Vincentia High (Nowra) 0

The 13th Bill Turner Trophy grand final was won by Brisbane's Cavendish Road State High 1-0 over Nowra's Vincentia High.

Both sides showed good skill but a 31st minute goal to Cavendish Road's Kirsty Watters was the difference between the sides in the 15-and-under High School girl's knockout competition.

Over 350 schools started out in the competition in the second term of school which encompassed the ACT, NSW and Southern Queensland.

Cavendish Road (2-0 over Kurri Kurri High) and Vincentia (3-1 over Emmaus College) were victorious on Tuesday afternoon in the semi-finals to set up a showdown in the Grand Final.

The first half (of 30 minutes) was scoreless with Watters scoring one minute into the second session. Watters finished off a neat cross from one of her team mates on the left side of the field.

The ball went over the Vincentia 'keeper, Belinda Neaker's head and fell at the feet of Watters for a simple tap in and the trophy was in the bus ready to head north.

Disappointment for Vincentia, soon after the final whistle, turned to smiles all round when skipper and centre midfielder Tara Pyers received the Star Players Award.

St Mary's based Emmaus Catholic College recorded a 1-0 win over Kurri Kurri High for the third place medallions.

BILL TURNER CUP — 3rd PLACE

St Edwards College (East Gosford) 1
(Oliver Bozanic 38')
Griffith Catholic College 0

A 38th minute shot from striker Oliver Bozanic secured the third place medals for St Edwards College. East Gosford in the 25th Bill Turner Cup Final series. Over 500 schools started the 15-and-under High Schools tournament in term one and over the past two days four sides have fought out for the title.

St Edwards and Griffith Catholic College, Tuesday's semi-final losers, played off for third and the East Gosford based College were deserved 1-0 winners.

Later in the night Westfield Sports High won the Grand Final 4-0 over Kelvin Grove State High from Brisbane.

Griffith student Rohan Wilson shared the Star Players Award, judged from the quarterfinals onwards, with Westfields skipper Tayfun Buyukokpru.

BILL TURNER TROPHY — 3rd PLACE

Emmaus Catholic College (St Marys) 3
(Sam Muscat 25', 56', Jenna Hinds own goal 59')
Kurri Kurri High (Hunter Valley) 1
(Ashley Gordon 18')

Emmaus Catholic College from St Marys (Sydney) beat Kurri Kurri High 3-1 in the Bill Turner Trophy third place play-off.

Kurri scored first through Ashley Gordon but it was Emmaus's Sam Muscat that won the game Kurri scored first through Ashley Gordon but it was Emmaus's Sam Muscat that won the game for the St Mary's based side.

Two goal, one in each half gave her side the win. Unfortunately for Kurri an own goal, off the leg of defender Jenna Hinds, increased the margin to 3-1 just before fulltime.



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QLD Finals Series *By Glenn Davis*

LIONS SHOWDOWN WITH PINE RIVERS

Pine Rivers stand between Queensland Lions and a slice of soccer history when they meet in the Brisbane premier league grand final at Perry Park on Saturday night.

Queensland Lions earned a shot at repeating last year's historic feat of being the first side to win the Queensland Cup, premiership and grand final, when they downed Palm Beach 2-1 at home in the second leg of the home-and-away semi-finals.

The win ensured a grand final berth with a 2-1 aggregate after Lions and Palm Beach drew nil-all in the first semi-final leg at the Gold Coast last week.

Lions, Queensland's largest and strongest club, also will figure in the Reserve and Youth grade grands finals at Perry Park next Saturday.

Pine Rivers moved into the grand final after holding Brisbane City to a 1-all draw at Spencer Park to win 4-2 on aggregate.

Palm Beach looked set to rob Lions of their bid for history until five minutes from normal time when Jamie Lowndes broke a 1-all deadlock from the penalty spot after Reece Tollenare was ruled to have fouled in the box.

Speedy striker Greg Di Losa had given Lions the start they wanted opening the scoring for the home side with a 13th minute header before Alec Panic scored from the penalty spot on the stroke of half time for the visitors.

Lions' victory was soured late in the match when Darren Sime was sent off following an altercation with a Palm Beach player in an off-the ball incident in the dying stages.

Sime's indiscretion will mean he'll miss the grand final against Pine Rivers who also have their own grand final problems.

Pine Rivers' defender Mark Greer and Joel Hale are in doubt through injury while striker Darren Bender is expected to miss the final after receiving his second yellow card during the play-off series.

Lions' coach Miron Bleiberg was delighted to make the grand final again after being forced to make an early substitution in midfield when Brisbane Strikers' bound Warren Moon was injected into the game.

"We were cruising at 1-nil but we lost some balance defensively in midfield when I had to bring on Moon who is an attacking player," Bleiberg said.

"One-all wasn't good enough for us so we went on the attack and we ended up

playing with five strikers near the end.

"In the last ten minutes we were camped in their half and it eventually led to the penalty."

Bleiberg won't be underestimating Pine Rivers in the grand final and praised them for making it so far after being promoted back to premier league this season.

"Pine Rivers have done very well to get to the grand final but it's their first," he said.

"We've been there many times and I think experience and quality will prevail," Bleiberg said.

Palm Beach coach Bobby Hamilton said his players felt cheated after referee John Peacock awarded Lions the late penalty.

"Their first goal was good. It was a cross with a good header at the end and we can't complain about that," Hamilton said. "But their penalty should have been a free kick our way."

"Reece Tollenare slipped on the ball in the box and controlled the ball with his forearm as he got up before any foul occurred."

"It was very disappointing with it being 1-all and five minutes to go and then to get a dubious penalty."

"It was a similar performance from us to last week. I don't think our keeper had to make a save."

Pine Rivers won their home leg 3-1 and now enter the premier league grand final for the first time in the club's history.

"We've made grand finals in lower grades before and we've made semi finals in the premier league on numerous occasions but this is our first grand final," said Pine Rivers' coach Clayton Koch.

Pine Rivers had to fight all the way to earn a grand final berth after Brisbane City took a 1-nil lead after a 10th minute header from Barry Wilkinson.

The equaliser from Pine Rivers came in the final few minutes when Brian Doyle tapped in from close range after Dean Peltochaka squared from the right.

Pine Rivers' victory was the fifth straight win this season over Brisbane City.

"We've played them five times this year including preseason and won the lot," Koch said.

"We were the better side in the first half on the chances available but they went up 1-nil from their only shot."

"We rode our chances a lot of the time in the second half and they should have

scored but didn't."

Koch will give Hale and Greer every chance to prove their fitness for the grand final but expects to lose Bender because of his two bookings.

"Both Joel and Mark were hurt last week against Brisbane City but they felt right to start against Brisbane City," Koch said.

"Unfortunately Hale popped his shoulder again and was replaced with 30 minutes to go while Greer again hurt his calf."

Although Pine Rivers is likely to field an under strength grand final team, they have shown in the past they're capable of upsetting Queensland Lions.

"We beat Lions 2-1 in the first round and then lost 2-1 in the second round but we were leading in the second game with only 20 minutes to go," Koch said.

Brisbane City coach Frank Pimblett believed a controversial first leg goal cost Brisbane City a grand final place.

City went down 3-1 to Pine Rivers in the first leg after the third goal was allegedly elbowed in by Pine Rivers' defender Damian Harris.

"That third goal at their place was the difference and came back to haunt us," Pimblett said.

"All we needed to make the final today was a goal but it shouldn't have been that way after their third goal in the first game."

"But we can't complain when we lose on aggregate over two legs."

Brisbane City had numerous chances to break the 1-all deadlock but failed to take their chances.

"It was a game of lost opportunities," Pimblett said.

"We had chance after chance to score but didn't take them."

Brisbane City almost got their noses in front of Pine Rivers in the 65th minute but a header from Nick Serra struck the post.

"We had them under the hammer for a good 20 minute period but didn't put them away," Pimblett said.

Pimblett is unsure of his coaching future but would like another shot at the coaching job next year with Brisbane City.

"I'll be applying to coach next season but I'll be getting the broom out as I think we need new blood," he said.

"We lost six players from last year at the start of the season and overall we did well to get where we did especially after losing Sean Cranney and Morgan Cawley during the season with injuries."

Brisbane Mens Soccer - Semi Finals 2nd Leg

Premier League:

Qld Lions 2 Palm Beach 1 (Lions win 2-1 on aggregate)
Brisbane City 1 Pine Rivers 1 (Pine Rivers win 4-2 on aggregate)

Premier Reserves:

Taringa 0 Souths 1 (Taringa win 3-2 on aggregate)
Qld Lions 2 Rochdale 0 (Lions win 3-3 on away goals rule)

Premier Youth:

Qld Lions 3 Palm Beach 0 (Lions win 4-1 on aggregate)
North Star 4 Pine Rivers 2 (Pine Rivers win 4-4 on away goals rule)

Division 1:

Mitchelton 0 Uni Qld 1 (Uni win 3-1 on aggregate)
East 1 Olympic 1 (Olympic win 2-1 on aggregate)

Division 1 Reserves:

Mitchelton 3 Peninsula 2 (Mitchelton win 5-4 on golden goal rule)
Redlands 0 Uni Qld 1 (Redlands win 3-2 on aggregate)

Division 1 Youth:

Albany Creek 2 Capalaba 2 (Capalaba win 3-2 on aggregate)
Peninsula 1 Mt Gravatt 5 (Mt Gravatt win 8-2 on aggregate)

Division 2:

Southside Eagles 1 Moggill 0 (Southside win 2-1 on aggregate)
Bethania 2 Slacks Creek 2 (Slacks Creek win 5-3 on aggregate)

Division 2 Reserves:

Slacks Creek 0 North Pine 3 (North Pine win 3-0 on aggregate)
Southside Eagles 0 Ipswich City 2 (Ipswich City win 3-1 on aggregate)

Metro 1:

Uni Qld 0 Souths 1 (Souths win 2-1 on aggregate)
Pineapple Rovers 1 Clairvaux 0 (Pineapple win 5-1 on aggregate)

Metro 2:

Wynnum 1 Capalaba 0 (Wynnum win 2-0 on aggregate)
Slacks Creek 1 Woodridge 0 (Woodridge win 6-1 on aggregate)

Metro 3:

Peninsula 2 Pine Hills 3 (Pine Hills win 3-3 on away goals rule)
North Star 1 Gap 2 (Gap win 3-2 on golden goal rule)

Metro 4:

Uni Qld 2 Ipswich Knights 2 (Uni win 4-3 on aggregate)
Clairvaux 1 Acacia Ridge 0 (Clairvaux win 8-4 on aggregate)

Metro 5:

Slacks Creek 3 Taringa 2 (Slacks Creek win 3-2 on aggregate)
Newmarket 2 Olympic 0 (Newmarket win 3-2 on aggregate)

Metro 6:

Capalaba 0 Newmarket 2 (Newmarket win 4-2 on aggregate)
Redlands 1 Olympic 1 (Olympic win 3-2 on aggregate)

Grand Finals:

Premier League: Qld Lions v Pine Rivers

Premier Reserves: Qld Lions v Taringa

Premier Youth: Qld Lions v Pine Rivers

Division 1: Uni Qld v Olympic

Division 1 Reserves: Mitchelton v Redlands

Division 1 Youth: Mt Gravatt v Capalaba

Division 2: Southside Eagles v Slacks Creek

Division 2 Reserves: North Pine v Ipswich City

Metro 1: Pineapple Rovers v Souths

Metro 2: Wynnum v Woodridge

Metro 3: Gap v Pine Hills

Metro 4: Clairvaux v Uni Qld

Metro 5: Newmarket v Slacks Creek

Metro 6: Olympic v Newmarket

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S O C C E R N O O S

Everyone's got an opinion – why not share it?

The GGarmy.com forum has been running for a month and it is starting to hot up with debates over selections and global talk from Australian fans overseas. If you want to talk Socceroos or Aussie soccer issues- ggarmy.com is the place. Log on today

More Socceroos matches on the horizon

There are strong indications coming out of the corridors of Soccer Australia's Homebush head quarters that our lads may be in action at home in the near future.

There is also persistent rumour re the Socceroos playing in the US against South American opposition. Add this to the recent friendlies, the Matildas at the World Cup and Olyroos v Turkey and you can see there is plenty going on in Aussie soccer- so jump on ggarmy.com and keep informed

Socceroos v Jamaica – send us your thoughts

Are you a budding sports writer just waiting to break out? Why not write up a report of the Jamaica game or any Australian soccer match and send it to us at admin@ggarmy.com and share it with the ggarmy

Matildas at the Cup – follow them with us

The Matildas are waltzing their way to the USA – follow their progress at ggarmy.com
 GOOD LUCK GIRLS

Thanks to all

Thanks to everyone who came out late last Sunday to watch the big Socceroos game. It was a great night and there are plenty more to come so stay tuned.

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The World Cup by the numbers

By Mark van Aken
ggarmy.com / ABSW

It was early last century that a group of French soccer luminaries led by Jules Rimet mooted the idea of brining together the world's 'strongest' football nations to compete for the right to be called "World Champions".

Over the next eight decades this idea has become something bigger than anyone could ever have dreamed, big in every way. Big on excitement, big on emotion, big on global appeal and, for us in particular, big on heartbreak.

Until the first Cup in 1930, the Olympics was the forum to examine soccer's elite but it has become much bigger than the Olympic movements own games of both variety. However under neath all the politics and rhetoric the Olympic ideal still lives through; faster, higher stronger. Eric the Eel was either fantastic or pathetic for Sydney 2000, depending on which angle you take.

You can search fifa.com high and low and nowhere can you get a simple quip about what the World Cup stands for, what it tries to achieve. There appears no one single sentence or paragraph summing up the exact the point of the World Cup. Much like the IOC, FIFA has it's own slogan; "for the good of the game".

As the months have come and gone since Oceania lost its automatic invite to Germany 2006 a quick look at FIFA's own rankings show that its system of choosing which 32 countries make it to the finals gets it right and wrong all at the same time. It shows that pointing the stick at the South Americans for our loss while satisfying and easy, may not be the most poignant place to centre our angst.

If we simply look at the top 32 teams we can see that Europe houses no less than 19 of these teams. Next on the list comes the South American's CONMEBOL with 5, CONCACAF and Africa with 3 each, Asia with 2 and Oceania with none. Doing so on the basis of FIFA rankings is simplistic as these change frequently and of course just because you are ranked high doesn't mean you will even make the World Cup - just ask 14 million Dutchmen with surplus supplies of Orange paraphernalia from last summer. However the following findings do raise some interesting issues.

Europe is allocated 13 spots for the next finals plus an extra spot for the host Germany, meaning that no less than 14 UEFA teams will be there. Both Asia (AFC) and CONMEBOL have been allocated 4.5 spots each, Africa 5 and CONCACAF receives 3.5 places. This of course leaves only half a spot for the OFC.

Straight off the bat we can see how the South Americans were so successful in lobbying FIFA's executive to reallocate it an extra half spot. Before the change they had only 4 spots at the Cup but 5 teams in the

relevant Top 32. Countering this argument is what percentage of teams from each confederation actually make it, a number that is higher in South America than any other. There are only 10 teams in their group and number wise this equates to 45% of the teams making it.

Compare this with the lowest in our own OFC where 0.5 of 11 make it, which mathematically equals 4.54%. However as we know half spots don't necessarily make it through and as such 0% of Oceania teams are guaranteed to make it to Germany.

While Asia (AFC) only boats 2 teams on the top 32, it is allocated 4.5 spots. On the flip side 4.5 spots only represents little more than 10% of teams in the confederation on par with Africa and CONCACAF. This is low compared to UEFA where 14 of the 51 (27%) will make it.



Many fingers point to CONCACAF as a place to jiggle a half spot for Oceania. We would face the argument that of their 3.5 places, 3 are ranked accordingly (86%) meaning they are only over represented by 14%. Two places where we will find no sympathy are CONMEBOL and UEFA where 5 of 4.5 (111%) and 19 of 14 (136%) are ranked in the top 32 respectively, leaving them technically under-represented. Finding a figure for the OFC here is not possible as we have no team in the top 32 and only half a spot, 0 divided by 0.5 equals a nice big duck egg.

Historically speaking, Europe has produced 21 of the World Cups 34 finalists for 8 winners, with the South Americans rightfully proud of its record of 13 finalists for a record 9 wins. Never in the 17 World Cups thus far has a finalist come from outside of these two confederations. This being said, the slogan 'for the good of the game' is interpreted on a global scale so we will move on.

If we pull out the calculators for another spin, there is one area where

FIFA can produce some kind of symmetry. When we contrast the percentage of spots each confederation has against the percentage of teams in the top 32 then we again see who is and isn't getting a good deal at the FIFA bistro.

CONMEBOL has 14% spots at the World Cup AND 16% of teams in the top 32. Not bad. UEFA again comes up short changed with only 44% of WC spots while providing 59% of the 32 best teams. Of course they do boast their own awesome tournament every four years so don't feel too much sympathy for our friends in the motherlands.

In this area the OFC has a 2% slice of the World Cup pie versus our 0% showing at the top of the rankings which means in mathematical and technical terms we are sitting with the North Americans (11% of spots and 9% in the top 32) skimming 2% over our weight. On this statistic Asia is 8% over (14% vs 6%) and Africa above by 7% (16% vs 9%).

Finally, to give a broad overview of where each confederation is at, we split the World rankings into 3 and worked out what percentage of teams in each confederation fit into each of the following groups.

Four of FIFA's family had similar numbers in the middle rung with around a quarter to a third in the zone. CONMEBOL had 30% ranked 50-100 with UEFA (27%), the AFC (25%) and Africa (24%) all in the same ballpark. When these calculations were done Australia sat at 48 but have since slipped. We were the only OFC team in the top 50, with New Zealand in the second tier meaning that 9% of our teams sat in each group. 14% of CONCACAF teams were also in the middle.

At the pointy end, that is 1-50, CONMEBOL came out clear winners with 60% of their teams in this range, followed by UEFA at 51%, CONCACAF, Africa at 14% and Asia at 9%.

What do all these numbers mean? Not much really, but they do illustrate that perhaps we can understand why the South Americans viewed their extra half spot as rightfully theirs. Looking at it from their point of view, a minnow like the OFC was stealing what was rightfully theirs. The numbers do point to a couple of regions having spots way out of proportion with their footballing talent and this isn't necessarily North and Central America like many think.

Perhaps other factors must be acknowledged such as population. That Asia boasts two nations with 10 digit populations surely explains its numbers at the Cup. Here Africa also lays some claims. Perhaps we in the OFC are guilty of two things; being small in population and playing talent. You can make do with failing in one of the two but not both.

Of course the numbers mean nothing when you accept that FIFA has a mandate to not simply deliver the best 32 teams in Germany but a selection of the entire world's best teams and these are not one in the same. It leads us to the inevitable question what about us? It appears to be a question that will continue to go unanswered for a long while yet.

RANN BACKS NEW ADELAIDE SIDE



SA Premier Mike Rann has backed the new Adelaide side in the National League.

South Australian Premier Mike Rann is backing Adelaide's new NSL team to be a big success. A board, coaching and management positions are all set to be announced. "There's been a massive amount of taxpayers' money put into soccer, in particular the investment in Hindmarsh Stadium," Rann told *The Advertiser*. "Since the stadium was built we have seen attendances plummet, the West Adelaide Sharks disappear and the recent announcement by Adelaide City they would not compete in the NSL."

"I have long believed that soccer in SA should look to the model set by Perth Glory. "Soccer in SA needs to reach out to embrace a new and much wider support base." Recently resigned Oceania president Basil Scarsella has been appointed the club's new president. "With the backing of the public, corporate Adelaide and the Government we firmly believe our new team will be a success," he said.

Locals Targeted By Glory



Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray has kept a close eye on local WA Talent.

NSL champion Perth Glory is hoping to sign four players from the WA State League on loan. Glory hopes to get the signatures of Perth SC pair Shane

Crampton and Aaron Cole, plus Scott Bulloch of ECU Joondalup and Fremantle City's Dean Appelgren. Crampton claimed the State League's Golden Boot award this season, while Bulloch is also capable of scoring goals from midfield. Cole, who has already had one spell with Glory, and Appelgren, are defenders. "For three of the players, Shane, Dean and Scott, this is their first opportunity to move up to the next level. We have looked at Aaron before. While he was released he has continued to perform well in the State League and that shows character," Perth coach Mich d'Avray said in a press release. "The players will train with

the first team squad and with a squad of 18 contracted players there is every chance that they may get an opportunity to impress at NSL level." "Perth Glory has always prided itself on giving local talent a chance and we will continue to do so. I am also delighted at the cooperation we have received from WA State league clubs in offering this opportunity to the players." This comes in the wake of the signing of former Newcastle United defender Matthew Bingley. Bingley has stated that the Glory signing was a life-line and that the former Socceroo was even contemplating retirement at the age of 32.

ZANARDO BANGS IN THREE

Effie Zanardo showed why she is one of the best strikers in the state with three superb goals that won the Grand-Final 3-1 for the UNSW against rivals Sydney University.

Zanardo opened the scoring with a "Maradona" like free kick that sent the supporters in raptures early in the second half and showed the signs of what was to come.

UNSW were the stronger of the two sides with Virginia Villar commanding in the defence and Daniella Spirovski in control of the midfield and it was no surprise that chances were created.

In the 75th minute Zanardo received the ball outside the box and with great skill and technique she beat three defenders to slot in the second for UNSW that put the game beyond doubt.

Coached by former great Des Marton, Zanardo showed glimpses of the great striker in her play and credit to him for nurturing such talent. She is on



Peter Katholos believes Zanardo can represent the Matildas.

the comeback trail after a motorbike accident that threatened her career and looks the goods for next season.

The third goal was also a gem with Ruth Jago beating her defender and the cross was headed home by Zanardo to complete her hat-trick and completed a great afternoons display.

UNSW were best served by Effie Zanardo, Virginia Villar, Ruthy Jago and talking to the hat-trick hero after the game she commented "I'm back, it was a great day for me and I am looking forward to next season in the super league."

Former Socceroo Peter Katholos was also at the game and was surprised by the skill and technique of some of the players, his view on the player of the match star was "What technique for a girl with a bit of work, she should play for Australia", Katholos stated to ABSW.

SPIRIT RETURN FROM CHINA TOUR

Northern Spirit returned from China last week after completing a ten day tour that included three matches against Chinese Club sides.

The Spirit team will now prepare for their first match of the NSL season against the Brisbane Strikers at Pittwater Park in less than a weeks time.

Spirit Coach Lawrie McKinna was pleased with their performance in China despite going down in three tough matches. He said;

"I was very pleased with our performance in China and it was a tough ask to play three games in six days against match fit teams. We

were less concerned with the final results as our focus was on trying new things that we will need for the NSL Season, when results really matter.



Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna was pleased with his side's recent tour of China.

"The first match we lost 1-0 and we matched it with them the whole game with a strong hard-working performance. The second match saw us start off sluggish and we were down 2-0 by half time. The second half was much better but as we were trying to equalise and they scored two goals against the run of play for a 4-0 result.

"I was very proud of the effort that the team put into the third match. The 2-1 result reflected the hard fought game that it was. Overall I was pleased to have these matches to try out different teams and formations and give some of the younger squad members some valuable time on the pitch."

VICTORIAN CHRONICLES by Brendon Davis

SOUTH CHAMPIONS 2003/04

With the season kicking off this weekend, its appropriate to crystal ball gaze, predicting how the season will finish and who the champions will be. This is my expectation:

1. South Melbourne
2. Perth Glory
3. Parramatta Power
4. Sydney United
5. Brisbane Strikers
6. Auckland Kingz
7. Marconi
8. Melbourne Knights
9. Newcastle United
10. Sydney Olympic
11. Wollongong Wolves
12. Adelaide
13. Northern Spirit

For the first time since the 1998/99 season the championship will return to Melbourne with Souths new captain, Vaughn Coveny to hold up the championship cup.

South have recruited very well, Michael Curcija will partner Boutsianis upfront - a combination that will yield many goals for the Bob Jane team. Coveny, Lohy, Susa, Damianos and Michael Panopolous in the middle is an impressive line up while Kovacic and stalwart Mehmet Durakovic will anchor the defence.

Then there is Tunbridge, just signed from the Force, Trimboli, Osman and the young brigade including Murdoca and Lia which suggests South have a mighty combination for the season.



Scott Tunbridge has been South Melbourne's latest inclusion.



Vaughn Coveny: South Melbourne's new skipper.

Chronicles Say: South have a powerful squad, reasonable depth although the defence may be vulnerable.

There are plenty of scoring options all overseen by a masterly coach. Predication - Champions

Across town, the Knights under new coach Ian Dobson have again adopted a youth policy. With the lowest playing budget in the NSL, said to be only \$400,000 they have secured Steve Pantelidis from East Altona and Stan Zilic from Adelaide.

The experienced players at the Knights include Andrew Marth, in the backline and 27 year old Andy Vargas.

The rest of the Knights squad is 22 years old or younger. The stand out looks to be young Tom Razov, a striker from Victorian Premier League club St Albans. Joining him up front will be Peter Buljan

who was released by South Melbourne at the conclusion of last season.

Chronicles Say: On a tiny budget Ian Dobson has recruited well. The problem will be the lack of depth especially as injuries and suspension kick in. Mid table is the best hope for the young Knights.

CHRONICLES FORECASTS

Big Improvers - The seasons big improvers will be Sydney United. Peter Gasparovic, the President of Sydney United has assembled a good team both on and off the park. United may well be the surprise package.

And Brisbane Strikers may also finish higher up the table than most people expect, although light on depth, they have a quality squad.

Turmoil - While 13 clubs will start the season, I expect only 12 will finish. Northern Spirit are experiencing all sorts of off field complications, some of the players refused to travel on the pre-season tour of China due to a continuing pay dispute and supposedly the owners remain in dispute with Rangers over the divorce.



Andre Gumprecht is regarded by Davis as the best player in Australia.

Best Player - The Powers Andre Gumprecht is the best player in Australia. His impact at the Glory last season was under estimated, he is the most valuable footballer in the NSL and, pairing up with Simon Colosimo in the middle, he is an outstanding proposition for the Power.

Fall From Grace - Last seasons runners up, Sydney Olympic will fail to make the finals. Having to adjust to a tiny playing budget, combined with an exodus of so many quality footballers, this will be a long season for the mighty club.

FIRST VICTORIAN GAME

On Sunday afternoon fans should travel to Sommers Street where the Knights host Marconi. Kick off is at 3pm.

The first fixture at Bob Jane is not until round 4 as South play at Parramatta in Round 1 then have the bye in round 2.

GOOD LUCK

With the action finally starting we wish both Victorian Clubs a successful and prosperous season.

Our dream would be to see the Knights and South playing off again for the championship, with both clubs remaining at full strength and free of cards through the season.

And we extend the best wishes to all 13 NSL Clubs.

Olympic Signs Stars



New Sydney Olympic stars Hiro Ishida and Iain Fyfe have signed with the club.

Crowd favourite Hiro Ishida has agreed to return to Sydney Olympic, having signed a one year contract last week.

Hiro put pen to paper in Japan and told the official Sydney Olympic Website via a telephone hookup that he was pleased to be returning to Sydney, where he made so many friends in his time here.

"Hiro is a welcomed addition and will compliment the squad."

"He is a great entertainer and possesses amazing skills. He is an asset to the club." Stated Coach Papanikitas.

Hiro rejected a number of long term offers in Japan, preferring to accept a short term contract with Olympic thus allowing him to return for trials in Europe at the end of 2003/2004 National Soccer League season.

Hiro made his debut two seasons ago for the Olympic Sharks, earning rave reviews.

Ishida will fly into Sydney later this week and commence training with the squad on Monday.

Meanwhile Hot on the heels of signing Japanese import Hiroyuki Ishida, Sydney Olympic are happy to announce the signing of former Adelaide City defender and Olyroo Iain Fyfe.

The 21 year old was the target of a number of clubs in Australia including Perth Glory and South Melbourne, but opted to sign with the Sydneyiders.

In a statement to the official Sydney Olympic website, Coach Papanikitas stated "Fyfe is a quality player, technically proficient and can play anywhere along the backline."

He added "With Fyfe and the existing defenders we have a good blend of youth and experience."

Olympic are hoping to complete the squad with the signing of another exciting prospect by the end of the week.

Melbourne Knights run dramatically low budget

The Melbourne Knights revealed that they halved their playing budget last season and ran the team on A\$400,000 — the lowest in the NSL.

The previous season's figure of A\$900,000 was already considered low by the league's standards, but the Knights were forced into drastic action after recording losses of A\$500,000 for the past three years.

"When we came in, the club was A\$1,850,000 in

the red," Knights director Tony Juric said last week. "It was spiralling out of control, but we've taken the measures necessary and it's manageable now. We've brought it back to A\$1,700,000."



The figures were revealed in the club's accounts at the annual general meeting. Offsetting the debts are assets such as the club's ground at Somers St, worth about A\$2.5 million.

The club will run the squad on a similar budget this season, but remains confident the young team will be competitive under new coach Ian Dobson.

And the Knights will have a different look after attracting Spanish apparel sponsor Joma.

Joeys in tug-of-war

Joeys pair Adrian Leijer and Kristian Sarkies are at the centre of a tug-of-war between NSL rivals Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne.

Leijer has trained with South, who is also interested in Sarkies, but the Knights gave Leijer a run in a friendly on the weekend, ironically against South.

The Knights could have an ace up its sleeve though as its assistant coach is Lou Kastner, who also works for the Victorian Institute of Sport where Leijer has a scholarship.

"We're confident he'll sign for the club and we believe we're a good chance to get Sarkies as well," Kastner told the *Herald Sun* after the match.

Brisbane swoop for Parramatta striker Brownlie

Brisbane Strikers have completed the signing of Parramatta Power striker Royce Brownlie. The young centre-forward returns to Brisbane as a free agent and could be joined by the another ex-Striker in South Melbourne forward Michael Baird.

Brisbane believed to be checking on former Chile youth international and Football Kingz favourite Aaron Silva.

Meanwhile, three locals have agreed terms in Queensland Lions midfielder Warren Moon, Josh McLaughlan and Palm Beach defender Karl Dodd.



Royce Brownlie signed with the Strikers last week.



Socceroo coach Frank Farina.

Team spirit forged in recent European battles should be on display in Australia in November when the Socceroos are provisionally scheduled to play an international fixture on home soil.

After overseas matches against England, the Republic of Ireland and an historic first "home" fixture at a foreign venue against Jamaica, Australia's senior

national team is preparing to bring its stars home for real. And, so far, the response has been good from players so often in the past caught between wanting to please their clubs and having the honour of representing their country.

Socceroos coach Frank Farina said players involved in their 2-1 win over Jamaica at Reading's Madejski Stadium, in England, had reacted positively to taking

SOCCEEROOS looking forward to November match in Australia

part in a friendly in Australia on the weekend of November 15-16. "We brought it up with the players and they are all excited about the prospect. Hopefully, it will happen," he said.

If the game, likely to be played in Sydney or Melbourne, goes ahead, it will mark almost two years since the Socceroos last played a genuine home fixture - the 1-0 World Cup first leg qualifying win over Uruguay at the MCG on November 20, 2001. The opponent is yet to be confirmed, though it is likely to be a European team.

Farina said it was difficult to get any team to travel to

Australia. "It's difficult, but we as an organisation are really working hard to try and make sure we get a quality opponent," he said.

Though keen to give fans at home a first-hand look at the team after such a long break, Farina was delighted at the positive effect playing games in Europe had had on the squad.

"There's a fantastic atmosphere in the team at the moment," he said. "The players are very keen."

The growing camaraderie was reflected in the number of players not involved in the squad for the Jamaica game who made their way to Reading, Farina said.

Reading as long-term home questioned by Farina

Reading's hopes of staging more Australian 'home games' at The Madejski Stadium are by no means certain after the Aussies 2-1 win over Jamaica.

Just over 8,000 watched the match, but significantly the majority of them were Jamaican supporters.

After the game Australia coach Frank Farina said: "I am very happy with the facilities and the people in Reading were wonderful. But it may be easier to have future games in London."

Farina praises Bresciano

Socceroos coach Frank Farina has praised Parma midfielder Marco Bresciano, who has turned in superb performances in Australia's games against the Republic of Ireland and Jamaica.

Bresciano starred in the centre of midfield against Ireland, coming close to giving his side the lead with a superb volley that smacked the woodwork as well as turning in a polished performance.

And although he started on the right against Jamaica in the absence of Brett Emerton, he again was one of the best players on the pitch and also

scored his first goal for Australia.

"Marco played exceptionally well. I thought the whole team played well, but he seems to be getting better and better," Farina told the *Herald Sun*.

"He played on the right against Jamaica and did a great job, he was in the centre of midfield against Ireland and did just as well but, in fact, his best position is on the left side of midfield, where he plays for his club every week."

"In international football, it's a situation of grabbing the opportunity and he's taken it with both hands."



Marco Bresciano was outstanding for the Socceroos.

Perry Park Readies Itself To Stir

The first Brisbane Strikers fixture to be played at Perry Park since 1995 might be more than two weeks away, but already a visit to the rapidly evolving old home of Queensland Soccer is enough to send a shiver of excitement through any supporter with a heart and a soul.

A new temporary stand has been installed across the pitch on the eastern side of ground, separating the second pitch from the main pitch.

The temporary stand, which will not be roofed, is about eight rows high, except for small sections at either end which are about six rows high. It will provide seating for around 1,000 spectators.

Sitting as it does atop a grass bank,

it will provide spectators with an excellent vantage point from which to view the game, offering better elevation than the old grandstand.

We can tell you that there is already a palpable sense of pride within the Brisbane Strikers in what is being achieved. It is evident from the smiles of the office staff who have 'made do' with very cramped and primitive office accommodation during the club's nomadic existence over the past several years.

But perhaps most illuminating of all was the comment of player-coach, Stuart McLaren, who even in the midst of putting the finishing touches to the recruitment of his squad has found the time to do what you would expect any player to do — to stand out in the mid-

dle of his new home pitch and savour the feeling created by his new surroundings.

"It's going to be awesome", he said simply. One can't help but agree. It is hard to see how, even with a modest crowd of some 2,500, the grandstands on each side will not be nearly full, with spectators seated close to the action.

Even if there were no-one on the hill at each end, the atmosphere generated by Brisbane's supporters, who generally 'punch above their weight' in terms of vocal support, is likely to be imposing.

But with a crowd of 3,500 to 4,000, there is little doubt that the place will "go off" when the Strikers are performing well.

Brisbane Strikers Primmmed and Ready

The Brisbane Strikers' pre-season campaign continued in a winning vein last week, albeit with one or two stutters, as the boys in yellow and blue ran out 4-2 victors over a scratch "State" eleven drawn from Queensland Premier League clubs not involved in the QPL semi finals, plus a few from the Strikers squad.

The opposition was coached by Peter Tokesi, a former Brisbane Strikers assistant coach to Frank Farina, who was reported yesterday to be the coach of the Strikers' new NSL youth squad.

While a 4-2 scoreline looks convincing enough, and the Strikers were never behind, it is the latter digit in that scoreline that had a few Strikers diehards scratching their heads and asking questions.

They were not alone in their puzzlement. At one stage in the second half, after the Strikers had conceded their first goal, player-coach Stuart McLaren was seen to punt the ball deliberately into touch in order to buy time to express his displeasure with some of his backline team mates, whose concentration seemed to have gone AWOL.

However, highlighting that factor alone would be to dwell on negatives when there were also some positives to be gained from the day. The form of

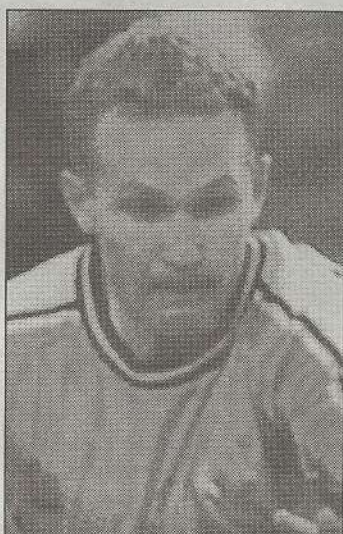
goal-getter Royce Brownlie, signed last week, was good, as was that of midfielder David Pilic, who looks stronger and a half-metre quicker than in any previous season.

At the back Karl Dodd, while sometimes a little self-indulgent, looks a quality player who is strong in the air and in the tackle, and very confident on the ball. It might be a little early to be saddling Dodd with comparisons, but there are times when he looks uncannily like Steve Laybutt.

And Brownlie's prospective striking partner, Michael Baird (who looks certain to join the Brisbane squad if he can gain a release from South Melbourne), looked twice the player he did in last week's performance against Taringa Rovers.

In the second half Baird's pace and skills were a constant headache for the "State" selection's defenders, and he was directly responsible for creating the third goal with a precise cut-back after having a shot parried.

The form of young midfielder Chris Scuderi also continues to impress. If Scuderi can reproduce in the NSL the sort of energetic and aggressive running and passing he is showing in the pre-season, this could be season in which he cements a starting position and makes a name for himself in the NSL.



Royce Brownlie wants to get back to his old scoring habits with the Strikers.

The game also featured an appearance from a mystery player wearing the number eight, who partnered Brownlie and Baird up front. Little is known by Strikers supporters of the player except that he is a Chilean who has been playing in New Zealand. While he didn't set the world on fire yesterday, he did display some pace and aggression, and a few nice touches.

Australia and New Zealand may quit Oceania

SOCCER Australia is expected to learn Oceania's World Cup qualifying fate next month before deciding its role within the Pacific region.

Australia's uncertainty follows the week-end resignation of former Soccer Australia head Basil Scarsella as Oceania chief after a vote of no-confidence by board members.

Australian and New Zealand officials are expected to begin talks over their roles within the far-flung confederation this week after a strong anti-Australia and New Zealand stance emerged at Saturday's OFC meeting in Auckland, sources said.

While New Zealand Soccer has publicly expressed its concerns over how Oceania will operate under interim leader Tautulu Roebbeck of Samoa, Soccer Australia is adopting a "wait and see" attitude.

Its new board, headed by billionaire chairman Frank Lowy, has been urged to play a bigger role within Oceania and look to assume leadership of the organisation when the next presidential elections are held on April 24 next year.

But SA sources say the new board is still

assessing the Oceania situation, with much likely to depend on FIFA's October 19 congress at which the region's future World Cup qualifying path will be determined.

"Our view is that OFC is important to us, but we really need stability in the organisation," a board spokesman said last week.

Under FIFA statutes, Australia could break away from Oceania and still retain its affiliation with FIFA even without being a member of a confederation.

But that would be a risky move, as it would then be at the mercy of FIFA to determine how it would qualify for future World Cups.

Scarsella had appeared to have orchestrated a major coup last December when the tiny Pacific grouping of island states, along with Australia and New Zealand, was granted an extra half qualifying spot for Germany 2006, giving the region a guaranteed place at the Cup.

But things fell apart in June when the FIFA executive voted 22-1 in favour of handing Oceania's extra half spot back to the powerful South American Confederation, agitating the Oceania no-confidence vote in Scarsella.

Kewell key to Socceroos

The Socceroos firmed as realistic World Cup prospects — as long as Harry Kewell plays.

Kewell was magical in Australia's 2-1 win over Jamaica in last week's international friendly in Reading, west of London, creating numerous chances and scoring the decider against a team 23 places higher in the FIFA world rankings.

The injury-depleted Socceroos, with a new-look back four, completely dominated the Reggae Boyz in the first meeting between the two countries at any level.

The Socceroos went into the match not knowing what to expect after

Jamaican officials confiscated match tapes two days before the game.

But the Australians, led by Kewell and Marco Bresciano, took control midway through the first half.

Bresciano put the Australians ahead in the 17th minute, only for Jamaican striker Kevin Lisbie to equalise a minute later, cutting through the new-look defence of Tony Vidmar, Steve Laybutt, Lucas Neill and Kevin Muscat.

But with Kewell making so many opportunities, it was inevitable that he would eventually find the back of the net, which he did in the 58th minute to give Australia a win.

Jamaican coach Carl Brown was bitterly disappointed not to come away with a draw and conceded he had underestimated Kewell and Mark Viduka. "For the first 15, 20 minutes of the game, the experience of Viduka and Kewell probably created more problems than we'd expected," Brown said.

He described Kewell's goal as soft but said the Liverpool player was the difference between the two sides. "His whole experience of getting back in midfield created a lot of problems there for us," he said.

Socceroos captain Paul Okon said Kewell lifted the team when he was able to play.

Kewell was instrumental in the Socceroos' 3-1 win over England in February but was out with an Achilles injury for last month's 2-1 loss to Ireland. "He's world class," Okon said.

"When Harry gets the ball in that half-turn position there's no-one better in the game than him. You hate to think it but that's the reality, with Harry Kewell in the team it lifts everybody. Without taking anything away from the boys who play when Harry doesn't play,

if you ask us all we all want Harry in the team and we need Harry in the team."

Coach Frank Farina said Kewell was exceptional but Australia had to be able to play with or without him. "The reality is sometimes you're going to be without players like Harry or Viduka or someone else," Farina said.

"You can't pin everything on one or two players. While it's always great to have world class players in your side, the reality is sometimes you don't. When we haven't had Harry we've performed reasonably well as well. But he's class."

The match was the Socceroos' second friendly against a quality opposition in less than three weeks and their third this year, an almost unheard-of schedule for the Australians. Asked how realistic Australia's chances were of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup, Farina said: "Very realistic".

"I firmly believe that we should be," he added. "It's well-documented that our qualification path is very difficult, very strange. It comes down to six days in four years where you've got to have everyone fit and in form. Six days out of four years. No other team in the world is in that situation. Unfortunately that's our lot and we can't do anything about it. But I think with the players we've got, the quality of our squad, we deserve to be there, definitely."

"Arguably this is one of the best Australian squads that we've had. Some of them have got seven years experience, two World Cup campaigns, so hopefully that'll be third time lucky for a lot of them."

The Socceroos hope to play one more friendly this year, with opponents sought for a match in Australia in November.



Matthew Bingley: Has signed and sealed with the Perth Glory this season.

Perth sign former Socceroo Matt Bingley

Perth Glory has signed former Socceroo and last season's Newcastle United Player of the Year Matt Bingley.

Thirty-two-year-old Bingley, who has been signed subject to a medical and can play in midfield or at centre back, will bring experience to the Glory line-up, according to coach Mich d'Avray.

"He brings a great deal of experience and versatility to the squad," said d'Avray. "He is also a proven NSL performer."



Harry Kewell was outstanding for the Roos in their last match against the Jamaicans.

Quit Oceania says soccer hall of famer

QUIT Oceania and install a user pays system were two radical suggestions from members inducted last Wednesday afternoon into the Australian Soccer Hall of Fame.

Former Socceroo Milan Ivanovic and NSW Federation life member Peter Gray were selected for the top category while other Socceroos named were Steve O'Connor, Gary Cole, Colin Bennett, David Harding and Wally Savor.

"There's no future for us in Oceania until the island nations get their act together," Gray said.

"Maybe we should take the half place FIFA gave us for the next World Cup and offer it to Asia and see if we can qualify through them."

"The other option is to make Oceania bigger and stronger by including other Pacific nations in the group. We can't stay as we are."

With the financial problems affecting sport generally, O'Connor, head coach of the men's soccer program at the AIS, said Australia needed a big change in its soccer culture.

He recommended an earlier starting age of 10 for players to be properly coached and a fee

for services.

"In the United States, parents are prepared to pay for special group coaching for their kids. It's like a user pays system which also results in decent coaches, not mickey mouse efforts," said O'Connor.

"One of our biggest problems is that we're victims of our own overseas success. We develop players for the top leagues overseas but don't put enough into home development."

"Most of the leading overseas countries start youth instruction at nine or ten with structured programs working on skills and fitness."

"If we don't look at something similar, where's the next Harry Kewell or Brett Emerton to come from?"

Gray said the two highlights of his 41 years as a player and administrator were the Atlanta Olympics and the Confederations Cup in which Australia beat France and Brazil.

"The officials were so shocked when we beat Brazil that they gave our medals to the Brazilians by mistake," he said.



First Division Act



Images By Carlos Furtado

Grand Finals

ion



from the dressing sheds



by Mark Stavroulakis

NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIEWS

The start of the 2003/04 National League is upon us and this week I take the chance to preview the first round matches.

Everyone's favorites to lift up the title come the end of the season have been the Parramatta Power and Perth Glory who look the goods.

Here's My Tips on the ladder this year

- 1) Parramatta Power
- 2) Perth Glory
- 3) Marconi Stallions
- 4) Sydney United
- 5) South Melbourne
- 6) Sydney Olympic
- 7) Newcastle United
- 8) Melbourne Knights
- 9) Wollongong Wolves
- 10) Brisbane Strikers
- 11) Northern Spirit
- 12) Adelaide
- 13) Football Kingz

TIPS FOR ROUND 1

FRI - Wollongong Wolves vs Sydney United (Tip - Sydney United)

SUN - Sydney Olympic vs Adelaide (Tip - Sydney Olympic)

SUN - Football Kingz vs Newcastle United (Tip - Newcastle United)

SUN - Melbourne Knights vs Marconi Stallions (Tip - Marconi Stallions)

SUN - Northern Spirit vs Brisbane Strikers (Tip - Northern Spirit)

PERTH GLORY - BYE

MATCH OF THE ROUND PREVIEW



Vs



Round 1 match of the week has pitted a mouth-watering clash between this year's favorites Parramatta Power and a rejuvenated South Melbourne side this Saturday evening.

Coach Nick Theo has bought rather well this year, the best in fact in the history of the National League having signed nine players.

New keeper Daniel Beltrame will not fair most of the season due to an injury he sustained at the start of the year but ex-Olympic Sharks keeper Clint Bolton is certainly no pushover replacement.

Look to see Simon Colosimo, Andre Gumprecht, Ante Milicic and Fernando Rech explode under the blocks for their new side as attack will be the key word from coach Nick Theo.

South Melbourne coach Stuart Munro will use this game as a test to see where his new squad is at.

South striker Michael Crucija has returned back from his stint in Europe and will be one of the many threats South possess alongside new Dutch signing Max Lowe. Look to see young stars Vince Lia, Massimo Muroccca and Simon Storrey set their patterns on the match while one player who always has the ability to change a match, Con Boutsianis, will be one to look out for.

It will be a tight contest between the pair but look to see the Power's supreme attacking ability come to fruition and take the first valuable three points of the year.

FIFA DELAYS DECISION

Socceroo coach Frank Farina expressed his disgust last week after hearing the news that FIFA had stalled the decision on what qualification route Australia would undertake for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

After the unfortunate decision to not award Oceania a direct passage towards the 2006 World Cup, it was expected that FIFA would act swiftly in announcing the Australian sides fate.

Alas nothing was done promptly an angry outburst by Farina.

"I would be hoping definitely by December for the official word. When they actually get together for the World Cup draw in Frankfurt.

I would be very disappointed if the decision had not been handed down by then", Farina stated to 'ABC Online'.

YOUTH IS THE KEY FOR OLYROOS

After the Australian U23's credible loss to highly fancied Turkey in Istanbul last week, many pundits put forward a stern message that the Olyroos mean business come 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Bowing out to the Turks two-one thanks to some one-sided referring by a local official, Farina's men are certainly in full-swing mode in terms of the Olympic Games next year.

Youth will certainly be on the agenda for Farina as he selects his final squad for the Games stating that the two-older player option will not be used by the side opting for the U23 approach.

"I believe if you're building a unit, you go down a certain path. If you start to bring in players at the 11th hour, it can be disruptive to what you've been doing.

So, no, no thoughts on that at the moment.

AUSTRALIA'S WAYNE ROONEY?

Australia could well have an answer likened to English star Wayne Rooney it was evident during a friendly hit-out between Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne last week.

16-year-old Jason Browne, nicknamed 'Rooney' by his fellow Olympic team-mates was at hand to score the equalising goal in the side's one-all draw with South.

Coming on as a substitute Browne finished off well with a great driving shot that opened his Olympic account.

Following his debut goal, a somersault was then displayed by Australia's Rooney in a game the youngster will never forget.

Look to see this youngster fair



Australia's Wayne Rooney - Jason Browne has been likened to the famous English striker (bottom).

in Olympic's matches this season, along with other promising youngsters Richie Cardozo and Lachlan Cahill.

GREEKS DELAY DAMIANOS TRANSFER

South Melbourne have been locked in a battle of signing Billy 'the kid' Damianos after his Greek side SKODA XANTHI slapped on a hefty transfer fee on the former Olyroo stars head.

Xanthi allowed Damianos to venture on-loan to South last season but this year revealed that a decent transfer amount is needed in luring the star on a permanent deal back to Bob Jane Stadium.

South Melbourne President Panos Margaritis revealed that the club is willing to pay a transfer fee for Damianos.

"I have a problem convincing them (Xanthi) because three years ago Sydney Olympic tried to sign Billy and offered Xanthi \$200,000.

I've tried to tell them that Mr Politis is no longer around and that sort of money is no longer available in the game here so I'm hoping to have a good hearing", Margaritis stated to 'The Herald Sun'.

BAIRD CHOOSES OLYMPIC

Just when ABSW thought one of Australia's rising stars would make the trek back to his old state Queensland came the news that Michael Baird has become a new Olympic recruit.

The Australian U20 International was on trial with the Brisbane Strikers for the past three weeks and looked certain in signing for the club but a last minute offer by Olympic officials lured the star to Sydney.

Baird agreed to Olympic's terms despite leaving his two-year deal still to run on his contract at South Melbourne.

It is understood that this matter has been put forward to the PFA however the Blues will have the

linked to a possible move to Olympic after the club lost the services of Clint Bolton to the Parramatta Power.

The young shot-stopper had a small stint with Blackpool but has since returned to Australia having played pre-season friendly matches with South Melbourne.



Michael Baird has signed with Olympic not the Strikers this season.

Paco Trajceviski, keeper brought from the Rockdale Suns and youth keeper Glenn Moss are the duo currently sharing the keeper duties at the club.

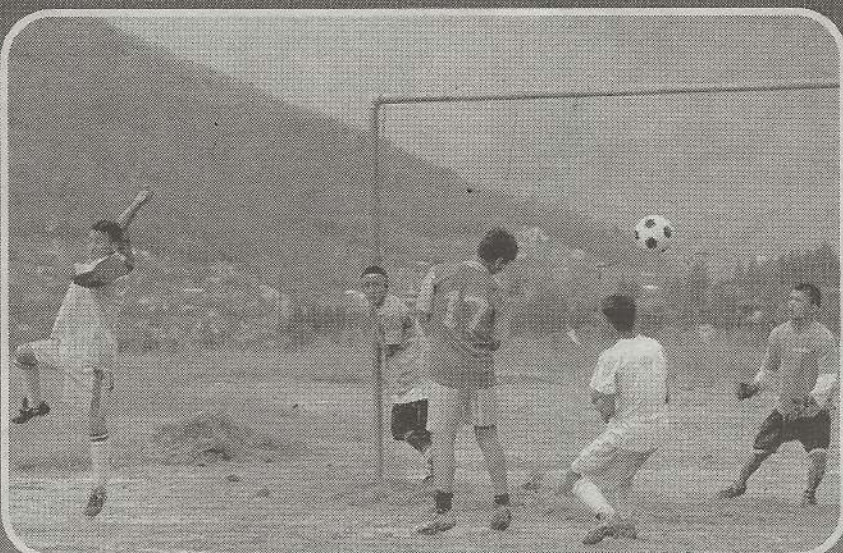
VPL CHAMPS SUPPORT ABSW

It was fantastic to see the front cover of ABSW on the Victorian Champions Green Gully's website last week. Issue "Vol 23 No. 1152 - Tuesday September 9, 2003" of The Australian & British Soccer Weekly, ran a special feature on Green Gully's Championship Year in 2003.



Billy Damianos is locked in a battle to sign for club South Melbourne.

photooftheweek



A Bhutanese student (L) celebrates after scoring a goal during a local football match in Thimphu, capital of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, August 21, 2003.

When Kuwait's football team trounced Bhutan 20-0 some three years ago, the tiny

Himalayan country went into mourning, but today, soccer is slowly edging Bhutan's traditional sport, archery, out of the arena to become one of the most popular games in the mountain country.



The front page of ABSW that featured on Green Gully's official website.

services of the star come start of the National League year.

Home-sickness was the reason why Baird wanted to part company with South but making the move to Sydney has raised concern over that.

Whatever the case, what is South Melbourne's loss is Olympic's gain who continue to get stronger just days before the start of the National League year.

Former Football Kingz keeper Michael Theoklitos has also been

A short introduction to the history of the club, Founder Henry Moakes links with Maltese club Floriana, a look at those coaching staff and players who have signalled their intentions to move on.

Revealed was Green Gully's record breaking month on the internet and official "Ozdam" ratings for the first week of the Green Gully Show on Channel 31.

Also a brief overview of the Junior set-up and conclusion for activities in 2003.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE PRELIMINARY FINAL

CRESCENT STAR COMEBACK!



Sydney Crescent Star

1



Hajduk Wanderers

(Crescent Star win 4-2 on penalties)

1

By Greg Stock

Sydney Crescent Star booked themselves a spot in the NSW Winter Super League Grand Final after overcoming a determined Hajduk Wanderers 4-2 on penalties in the Preliminary Final.

said Crescent Star striker Joe Bruni, while celebrating the historic victory. "We didn't play all that well today but we hung in there and managed to get an equaliser when it mattered and held on at the end."

Reshuffling his starting eleven, Crescent Star coach Yasin Ozdenak

and Navid Vares to keep the Premiers off balance. It wasn't until the early stages of the second half that Crescent Star started to play football. The talismanic Ekinci was introduced in the 63rd minute, but not before Sydney CS had gone a goal down to the tenacious Hajduk.

Navid Vares nipped in at the back post to put away a loose ball and give the Wanderers the lead, after a fierce drive from Gledhill was only be parried by the acrobatic Tolios.

Crescent Star were back on level terms in the 70th minute when Filip Marzec made the most of an Ekinci pass on the edge of the area, lashing a right foot strike into the top left hand corner.

But too often Crescent Star wasted their opportunities, frustrated at the lack of space afforded to them by a highly disciplined Hajduk side.

"We struggled to create enough chances," said Bruni in explanation, "Hajduk held their shape well and got men behind the ball and made life very difficult for us."

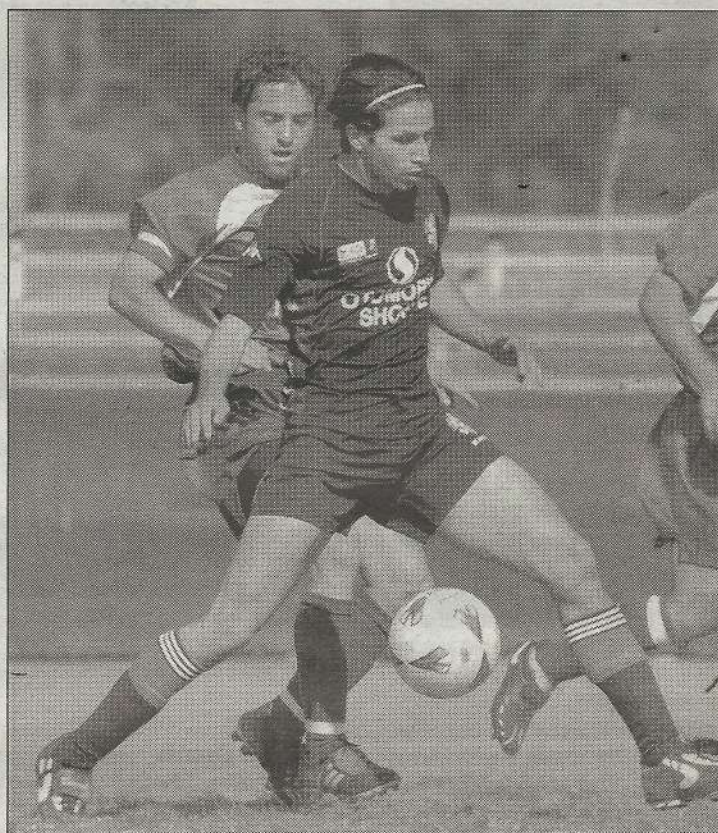
Using Todd Brodie and Anthony Hartshorn on the flanks for a quick counterattack, Hajduk were desperately unlucky not to find a winner towards the end of regulation time.

Gledhill and Worrall missed golden opportunities in the first period of golden goal extra time when well inside the penalty area. A superb reflex save by Tolios denied Gledhill when he shot on the turn from traffic. With neither side unable to find the net after 120 nailbiting minutes, the game went to a dramatic penalty shootout, with Tolios again proving the difference between the two sides.

Having suffered a broken leg earlier in the season, he used every inch of his six foot plus frame to deny Anthony Hartshorn with Hajduk's second shot, and stepped up again to block Trent Worrall's effort two shots later. Taking his sides fifth shot, after an uncharacteristic earlier miss by Ekinci, Tolios found the bottom left hand corner of the net, proving his versatility.

"Steve (Tolios) was absolutely superb for us" said Bruni. "When we were struggling today he came up with some great saves to lift us and when we needed a good penalty taker, he stepped up with the goods."

To their credit Hajduk never gave in



Terry Atsas lays off a crossfield pass

throughout the extra time and were probably a touch unlucky not to find a winner themselves. Defensively they did more than hold their own, veteran Mark Abi-Arrage superb in marshalling his troops. But sadly, they were left to rue some missed opportunities coming unstuck at the final hurdle, in their bid for back-to-back Grand Final appearances.

One player to catch the eye for the winners was Hassan Al Kozai. Given the task at sweeper he did a superb job to keep the Hajduk forwards well held for the majority of the match.

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR: Steve Tolios, Evangelos Petralos, Davrim Huseyin (Yavus Ekinci 63'), Terry Atsas, Volkan Kiri, Hassan Al Kozai, Philip Marzec, Taylan Devrimol, Joe Bruni, Haris Sevgin (Hussein Jomaa 71'), Unal Omen.
Coach: Yasin Ozdenak.

HAJDUK WANDERERS: Daniel Schwarzer, Robbie Kuman (Trent Worrall 56'), Anthony Hartshorn, Mark Abi-Arrage, Ryan Manente, Todd Brodie, Paul Crisp (Eddie Wong 86'), Navid Vares (E. Barkkousir 95'), Tim Gledhill, Anthony Mridjen, Chris Camilleri.
Coach: Tommy McCulloch.



Steve Tolios punches clear under pressure: the Crescent Star custodian saved two penalties in the shoot-out, and scored one himself

With the game locked 1-all after 120 minutes of football, the match was decided on spot kicks, with brilliant goalkeeper Steve Tolios saving two and then sealing the victory by putting away the winning shot.

"It was a tremendous win for the club"

benched midfielders Hussein Jomaa and Yavus Ekinci, preferring Hassan Al-Kozai at sweeper to Askin Oygur. Without the creativity of Ekinci, the home side struggled to make an impact and found themselves on the back foot as Hajduk used the pace of Tim Gledhill



Mount Pritchard claim First Division Championship — See Page 23



SOCCER NSW

WRITERS: Paul Goodwin, Greg Stock, Barry Davis
PRODUCTION: Mary Quartly
EDITOR: Ben Cubby
EDITOR-AT-LARGE: Adam Mark
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
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SOCCER NSW
Valentine Sport Park
235-257 Meurants Lane,
GLENWOOD NSW 2768
Phone: (02) 8814 4400
website: www.soccernsw.com.au

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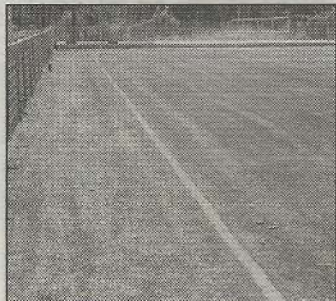
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FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



Luff Takes Time Out

Blacktown City striker Colin Luff has announced his plans to take a year off for 'personal reasons' and has declared himself unavailable for the Summer season. The 28 year-old, who won the Golden Boot at Bonnyrigg in season 2000 with 27 goals, is looking to spend the summer relaxing and freshen up mentally before reviewing his options. "It is true, I am retiring and that's official" said Luff. "I enjoyed my time at Blacktown last year but I have been finding myself a little short on motivation and feel that by taking some time off I'll hopefully extend my career a little."

Luff made 18 appearances last season for the Demons scoring 9 goals after a mid season transfer from Bankstown. A property valuer by trade, his work commitments are also eating into a lot of his time, which can often require him to be available on weekends.

"I have been playing during the winter with Picton Rangers in the Illawarra league and have been enjoying the change of pace," said Luff.

"I just find playing football in the summer difficult and to be perfectly honest, I am looking forward to spending some time on the beach."

His team mate at Blacktown David Reid is also rumored to be considering retirement, while defender Dion Valle is also pondering taking a season off.

... But Brown Is Back

All this leaves Blacktown City coach Brian Brown with a few vacancies on his team sheet. But, having just returned from a three-week holiday in his native Scotland, Brown feels refreshed and ready to set about the task of rebuilding last seasons Premiers.

"It was a great holiday but now I am back I am keen to start getting the squad together and looking to fill a few holes," said Brown.

"We start preseason training this weekend and at this stage I am still looking for a couple of strikers and three quality midfielders, and that should top up the squad nicely."

The four Blacktown big guns, John Crawley, Kain Rastall Ben Willard and Damien Foxe have all put pen to paper and agreed to new contracts with the club.

Bruni Breathes a Sigh

Crescent Star striker Joe Bruni exorcised a few demons at the Preliminary Final on Sunday. Faced with the task of taking penalty shot number three for his side, Bruni made no mistake with his left foot drive finding the bottom right hand corner of the net with relative ease.

After missing the same shot for Bonnyrigg in the Preliminary Final against Blacktown City back in May,

there was no more happier player than Bruni when goalkeeper Steve Tolios put his attempt away to send Crescent Star to the Grand Final.

Patikas Returns

Dulwich Hill are pleased to announce that they have re-signed former Socceroo international Jimmy Patikas as coach for season 2004. "I am very happy to be back" said Patikas at the Preliminary Final last Sunday.

"I have enjoyed my time at Dulwich Hill this year and am really looking to rebuild the club during the off season and look to getting it back on track for a semi-final finish next season." Patikas will be assisted by his long time friend Arthur Kassis.

Ellul Decision Pending

On the subject of coaching reappointments, Sutherland boss Vic Ellul is expected to make his decision on whether to return as Sharks boss in 2004. Ellul will have further meetings with the club this week, with a decision expected soon.

Fraser's Strength In Depth

Commiserations to Fraser Park's 19's and 21's sides, who couldn't emulate the senior team and were beaten in last week's Preliminary Finals. Both sides are going to continue to train this week to give some much needed support to the senior side in the run up to the big one this Sunday.

"It has been a very exciting year for the club with all three grades in the final series we wanted all the players to be a part of the excitement of Grand Final week," said coach Ian Gillan.

The Dragons are one of two teams waiting to hear on their application for promotion to the Premier League. According to club spokesman Ian Baddock the club is champing at the bit for the opportunity to mix it at the highest possible level.

"We have submitted a sound application incorporating a strong business and financial plan to the federation," said Baddock.

"Our intention would be to play games at Kogarah Jubilee Oval and strengthen our ties with the St. George Rugby League Club to promote the game to a new generation of potential fans."

The federation is expected to make a decision on their application, and that of Sydney Crescent Star, in the next few weeks. On a separate note, one of Fraser Park's former players, goalkeeper Chris Giannangelo, has bobbed up as second string keeper with English non-league club Forest Green.

Ignore All Omens

Dragons coach Ian Gillan received an interesting call during the week. His former coaching partner and current Hakoah boss, Tony Dunn rang up to offer Gillan his congratulations on making the Grand Final, offering him a few words of advice.

"Tony was quick to point out I have been in three Grand Finals at various levels over the past three years," said Gillan. "My record stands at none from three so hopefully for me it will be fourth time lucky!"

GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

TALKING TACTICS

Why Fraser Park Can Win



- Tony Faria and Martin Bourke. If these two are on their game, look out Crescent Star. Both are match winners, Faria with his speed and agility, Bourke with his ability to shore up the defence and turn it quickly into attack with a defence splitting long ball.

- Crescent Star's defence has been one of the sloppiest in the league and can open up like a tin of sardines. Expect Faria and Collins to run at them from deep in the hope of creating some gaps.

- Consistency, in the key games this year Fraser Park have almost always come up trumps. They keep their shape well and even when they fall behind they aren't easily flustered from the job at hand, showing good discipline and concentration.

- The volatility of Crescent Star leaves them open to self destruct. If Fraser score early and mount some pressure, Crescent Star could well implode and allow the Dragons to run right over the top of them.



Fraser Park's Tony Faria

Why Crescent Star Can Win

- Speedy strikers in Hans Sevgin and Joe Bruni are sure to test out the slower less mobile Dragons defence. A quick counter attack is the key to Crescent Stars gameplan and if they can get the ball moving quickly forward they have the pace to get in behind the defence and cause all sorts of problems

- Steve Tolios: his form in recent weeks has him playing like two men.

- Good use of the ball when in possession. They like to go forward and can attack from anywhere on the field. In Jomaa and Huseyin they have two of the best flankers in the game

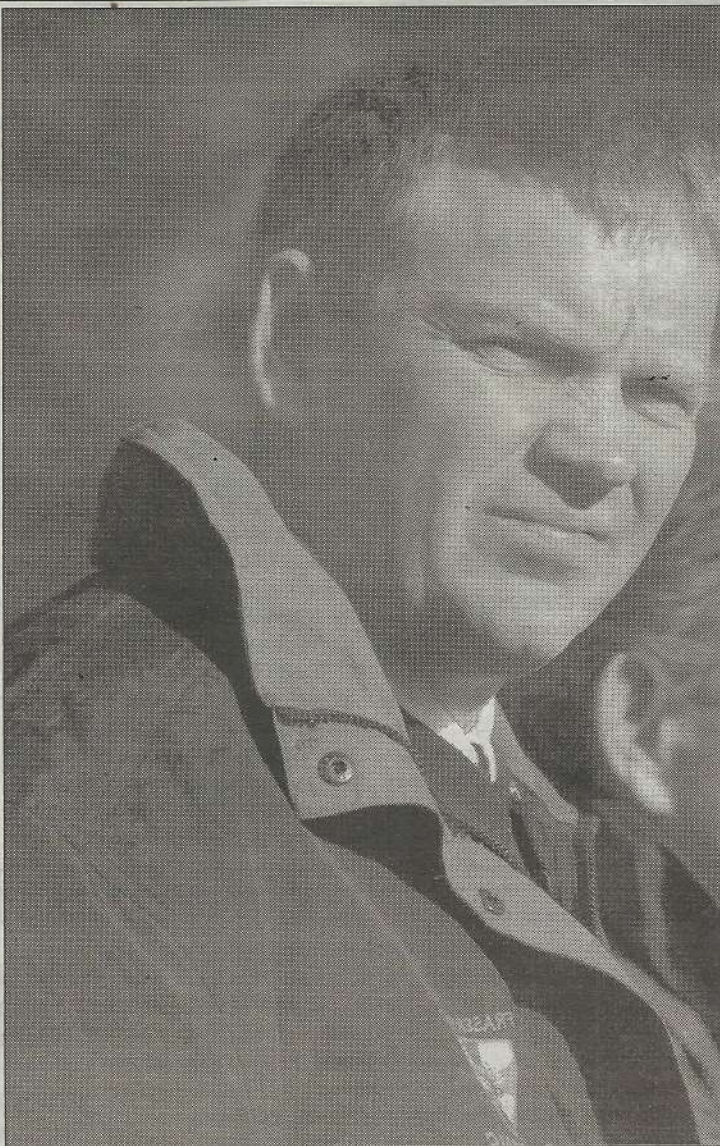
- Fraser Park has been known to sit back and absorb pressure, which would play into the hands of Crescent Star. With their talented forward line they have enough firepower to make the most of their opportunities.



Crescent Star's Filip Marzec



CELEBRITY TIPS



Fraser Park coach Ian Gillan is aiming for fourth time lucky

JIM PATIKAS (Dulwich Hill coach and former Socceroo) - "Fraser Park have been the most consistent team in the second half of the season and they should go very close."

PETER 'THE GENERAL' SARIKAKIS (Hurstville City Minotaurs coach and Man about town) - "Anything can happen in a Grand Final but I like Fraser Park. They are a classy side and will get the job done."

JOHN TURNER (Wollongong City coach) - "Without Tanju Balabanel, Crescent Star will struggle to score goals. Fraser Park are well drilled and more professional than their opponents and I would expect them to win."

BRIAN BROWN (Blacktown City coach) - "Balabanel is a key loss for Crescent Star and in his absence I'd have to say Fraser Park will win."

GREG WOODHOUSE (Canterbury-Marrickville coach and former Socceroo) - "I think Crescent Star could be a bit quicker than Fraser and that just might be enough in a close game."

JASON CONNOLLY (veteran Sutherland midfielder) - "Both sides are tough, but I'm leaning towards Crescent Star on the basis that they have some very quick forwards who can score goals from anywhere."

VIC ELLUL (Sutherland coach) - "Fraser Park are well drilled in defence and should have to hold Crescent Star out."

NICK PORECCA (AC United coach) - "Fraser Park are peaking at the right time and I have always said they were the side to beat right through the final series."



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NSW SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

with Greg Stock



First Grade:

Fraser Park Dragons vs Sydney Crescent Star
@ Hajduk Stadium, 2.30pm Sunday 21st September



Under 21 Grand Final

AC United vs Hajduk Wanderers

@ Hajduk Stadium, 12.15pm Sunday 21st September

Under 19 Grand Final

Sydney Crescent Star vs Manly Warringah

@ Hajduk Stadium, 9.45am Sunday 21st September

And now there are two. With all the preliminaries over, first placed Crescent Star and second placed Fraser Park face their moment of truth, the winner to be crowned Winter Super League Champions for 2003.

Despite winning the league in the last round of the season, Crescent Star haven't been the side they once were earlier this year and have limped through the last five weeks. A loss to AC United at Abruzzi Field was followed by a 3-1 win in the last round and the week off in the first round of the final series. Subsequently they were beaten by Fraser Park 2-1 in extra time during a torrid Major Semi-Final and were forced to do it the hard way in beating Hajduk Wanderers on penalties in the Preliminary Final.

Their drop in form has coincided with the loss of key striker Tanju Balabanel who has been signed by National League club Wollongong

City. That thought is not lost on his replacement, Joe Bruni. "Tanju (Balabanel) has been a big loss for us on the eve of the final series, but that's life and we have to get on with the job of winning games," said Bruni.

"While he was great to have in the side, we do have other players who can do a job and I am still confident we can put it together for a full ninety minutes and make a game of it this weekend."

On the injury front, the only player causing concern is defender Askin Oygur who has a leg problem, but he is expected to be passed fit and start at the centre of defence. Hulusi Orhan has also reportedly left the club, while coach Yasin Ozdenak is rumoured to be on his way to Turkey this week and will miss the season decider due to personal commitments. Fraser Park enjoyed the week off with a handful of their senior players watching on from the grandstand at Lidcombe Oval last

Sunday. With them was coach Ian Gillan, who in his first season as a senior coach, has taken them to second on the ladder and into their first Winter Super League Grand Final.

"It has been one hell of a season, and I am confident the boys will be at their very best for the game," said Gillan. The only player causing any concern is midfielder Martin Bourke who is troubled by a sore knee, but the old 'warhorse' is expected to start in the heart of the Dragons engine room. Tony Faria, an early favourite for this years Silver Medal, is over his nagging groin problem and is fit and raring to go.

"I am looking forward to the game and to be honest I didn't really care if it was Crescent Star or Hajduk," said Gillan. "Our preparation has been good and we are at our best and if we can't motivate ourselves for a game as important as this we never will!"



Fraser Park Dragons

Steve Angelov – A former youth international goalkeeper, Angelov is one of the early favourites for the Goalkeeper of the Year award. Has great presence inside the penalty box and is an excellent shot stopper in one-on-one situations. Organises his penalty box well and can feed his forwards with fast, accurate distribution.

Daniel Cunningham – A tall, lanky defender who has developed significantly under coach Ian Gillan this season after an injury to Philip Gregorace. Expected to be given a marking role on the difficult Joe Bruni where he'll need to be at his absolute best to keep him under control.

Alex Leris – A former St George defender, Leris is another to have come good over the past eight weeks. His combination with Cunningham and Wells in keeping a tight defence will go a long way to deciding the outcome of this game.

Scott Wells – A former youth international, Wells disappeared off the radar for the past few years plying his trade in the Illawarra. His return to the Dragons has largely been unheralded, though he has been one of the team's best defenders all season.

Martin Bourke – Old father time is yet to catch up with 'Bourkey' and he is still one of the best-performed players week in and week out. Will likely sit in as a defensive midfielder and linkman, organising the defensive operations and then using his ball skills to play in the forwards. The one to watch for Fraser fans.

Greg Collins – Expected to play the role of ball distributor, along with Bourkey, Collins has been at his best in recent weeks as the driving force in the Fraser Park engine room. His non stop work rate and defensive ability make him a very solid all round player.

Mark Guerreiro – Has come on in leaps and bounds this year as one of the focal points of the Dragons forward line. Scored the golden goal that put Fraser into the Grand Final and condemned Crescent Star to the Hajduk match-up. His size and physical presence make him a very hard man to contain, especially when inside the opposition penalty box.

Bill Petrovski – Enigmatic is the best word to describe this talented midfielder. On his day he can turn a game with a piece of individual brilliance and is definitely one to keep an eye on if he is given some space.

Clint Mayberry – Keen youngster who is likely to come in off the bench in the second half either as a midfielder or striker.

Emmanuel Papageorgiou – Another who wears the term enigmatic, capable of ripping the heart out of a defence when at his best. Expect a big showing from 'Manny' who always saves his best performances for the big games.

David O'Han – Another former St George junior in the Dragons side, O'Han will start on the bench and come into the game to add some fresh legs late in the second half.

Tony Faria – Hugely talented midfielder or winger, he is expected to be the main target for the Crescent Star defenders where his speed and naturally ability make him an exciting player. Sure to make a big impact at some stage of the match and a real crowd favourite for the Fraser Park faithful.

Archilles Markopoulos – Utility who can play at either end of the park. Has one of the biggest motors in the league and can just run and run all day. In recent seasons he has been more noted for his bizarre haircuts!

Daniel Farias – Former under 19's goalkeeper of the year in the Premier League a few seasons back, Farias hasn't had much opportunity with Angelov holding the number one shirt. Capable if given an opportunity.

David Cuda – Solid and crafty defender who may start on the bench and play some part in the second half to replace tired legs. A valuable member of the very deep Dragons squad.

COACH:

Ian Gillan – Born in Aberdeen Scotland, Gillan is in his debut year as a senior coach, after an extensive state league playing career, and is making every post a winner. Likes his side to use the flanks and play in the likes of Collins and Faria to good effect.

Sydney Crescent Star

Steve Tolios – Despite breaking his leg at the beginning of the season Tolios has returned bigger and better than ever to lead the side into the post season. A former national leaguer with Sydney United, his ability as a shot stopper and his strength in the air with crosses make him a very difficult man to beat.

Evangelos Petratos – At 35 years of age, he is playing some of the best football of his career. His experience in European football and the NSL leave no doubt he is a class act, shoring up the often the flaky Crescent Star defence. Expect him to go forward at set pieces where his ability to get on the end of free kicks make him a hard man to cover.

Devrim Huseyin – Still one of the best players in the league after a mid-season transfer from Bonnyrigg. Huseyin will get the job down the right flank, where his ability to knock in some nice crosses for his forwards should see him shine.

Terry Atsas – The diminutive midfielder is having one of the best seasons of his career directing traffic in the Crescent Star engine room. Has been targeted by a number of teams for 'special treatment' but still manages to help get his side around the park working closely with partner Yavus Ekinci.

Yavus Ekinci – Surprisingly came off the bench last week. His combination with Atsas is vital to Crescent Star's chances. Can knock defence splitting balls with either foot, his creativity will go a long way to deciding the outcome of Crescent Star's fortunes this week.

Volkan Kir – Left sided midfielder who has forced his way into the starting eleven in recent weeks. Has nice pace and a great swerve and likes to get forward, where he is capable of scoring goals.

Hassan Al Kozai – A surprise starter at sweeper last week, Al Kozai's inclusion will depend on the status of Askin Oygur. Had a strong game against Hajduk last week but is expected to be targeted for some extra pressure by the Fraser park forwards.

Philip Marzec – A talented midfielder, he likes to sit in behind the strikers and look for opportunities. His goal against Hajduk last Sunday was all class, a lashing right foot shot from the edge of the area. This goal and others mean he will be one for the Dragons defence to watch closely.

Hussein Jomaa – Another to come off the bench last week, he is still one of the best left sided players in the league. A former Sydney Olympic player, Jomaa's forte is to get forward and try his luck from just outside the penalty box. One to keep an eye on.

Tayfun Devrimol – More of a defender than a midfielder, coach Yasin Ozdenak has used his skills primarily as a defensive midfielder and linkman. A state representative player, he is likely to get the job of controlling the damaging Dragons midfielder Martin Bourke.

Askin Oygur – On the bench last week, Oygur is battling an injury to be fit to start. Transferred from Bonnyrigg midseason, his tall imposing frame makes him a hard man to beat in the heart of the Crescent Star defensive line.

Joe Bruni – Another to move over from Bonnyrigg prior to the transfer deadline, Bruni is one of the most damaging players in the team. Can shoot from either foot and has a blistering turn of pace that can beat a defender in the twinkling of an eye. One to watch.

Hans Sevgin – Had a quiet game against Hajduk but always rises to the occasion in the big games. Has tremendous speed off the mark, he should prove a handful from the slower Fraser Park defenders when they look to counter attack quickly on the break.

Unal Ogmen – A stopper who is likely to get a holding role on Papageorgiou or Faria. Capable of blotting quality players out of the game and likes to push forward on the break.

Ali Akbal – Reserve goalkeeper behind Tolios. A former Bonnyrigg and Fairfield player who is more than capable if called upon.

COACH:

Yasin Ozdenak – A former Turkish international goalkeeper, Ozdenak plays a very attacking style of game with his club. Previously on the coaching staff at Galatasaray, he is never flustered when under pressure commanding great respect from his players.





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GRAND FINAL PLAYER RATINGS

Mount Pritchard:

Michael Hartas - 8 - An excellent showing from the Mounties keeper. He made several important saves, and dealt well with the blustery conditions.

Peter Vrlc - 7 - The veteran put his body on the line for the team, making some timely interventions and distributing the ball in a cool fashion.

Julian Volpato - 8 - The youngster had a strong game, solid in the tackle and offering attacking options down the left as he pushed forward more frequently later in the game. A real find for the Mounties.

Craig Morton - 7 - The mature and reliable Morton did an excellent spoiling job on the Tigers forwards and showed some nice flashes of skill at times. A player with a promising future.

Matthew Hill - 8 - Hill has the makings of a classy fullback and can be expected to figure in champion teams for years to come. With an almost mistake-free game, he did the orange shirt proud.

Glenn Lowe - 7 - The combative Lowe helped the Mounties win the midfield contest. Passed the ball well and set up a few goalscoring chances.

David Gardiner - 8 - Stood tall in the centre of the park, threading the ball accurately and showed some sharp skill to turn out of tricky situations. One to look out for in this season's Premier League with Penrith.

Miro Maco - 9 - Maco did everything that could be asked of a striker in a Grand Final - contested everything that came near him, was quick on the break and accurate in his shooting - and coolly slotted home the clincher.

John Cosentino - 9 - A real captain's knock from the Mt. Pritchard skipper. Cosentino directed his team from sweeper, hardly putting a foot wrong at the back, and put his side in front with an opportunistic strike in the first half.

Lucas Flynn - 8 - A dynamic performance from the attack-minded midfielder, exploiting opportunities when they arose but also tracking back to win possession when required.

Steve (Vjelkoslav) Zoric - 6 - Unfortunately had to come off early with an injury, though he showed some fight before then.

Fabian Screpis - 6 - The stocky substitute came on and played his part without really catching the eye.



Northern Tigers:



Ricky Oppedisano - 6 - Made some good saves but was completely bamboozled by the Mounties' first goal. A so-so performance from the Tigers veteran-captain.

Matt Hunter - 9 - Probably the Tigers best player, Hunter made strong contributions in both attack and defence, marauding down the left and whipping in a bagful of crosses, none of which were put away.

Danny Hurwitz - 8 - A polished match from the promising Tigers sweeper. Did well in defence but wasn't shy of playing a libero-style role when the team needed it most, pushing forward in search of a win. Has a big future at this level.

Anthony Oppedisano - 6 - Did reasonably well at times, but drifted in and out of the match. The ex-Ryde junior could have done a lot more.

Damon Thompson - 6 - The big defender was caught for pace and out-manoeuvred several times, although he did show some assured touches, especially early on in the match.

Nick Femia - 7 - One of Northern Tigers' best, although he couldn't quite finish off many of the moves he started. But his work-rate was impressive, he showed some productive skills, and fought well for the green and white shirt.

Jason Mesiti - 6 - A disappointing game from the normally-lively attacking player. Could have done a lot more to create and put away goals.

Oliver Gomm - 6 - Missed some good scoring opportunities that would have transformed the match if taken. Still, this was a fairly encouraging performance from the tenacious Gomm.

Ben Jenke - 6 - Jenke couldn't find the right rhythm, and showed his frustration on a few occasions. Failed to break free of his markers for much of the game, although he did look sharp whenever given a yard of space - which wasn't often.

Scott Ryan - 8 - The Ku-Ring-Gai youngster got better and better as the match progressed, showing that he has the potential to do very well at this level - a pleasing outcome for the ambitious club.

Tomas Mikulski - 6 - A patchy game from the talented midfielder. He did some good things, particularly late in the second half, but was unable to stamp any authority on the match.

STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: PRELIMINARY FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Sydney Crescent Star 4 (P Marzec 70m) Hajduk Wanderers 2 (N Vares 60m) Win by penalties (1-1 Full time 1-1 Extra time).

GRADE 21: Fraser Park Dragons 0 Hajduk Wanderers 1.
GRADE 19: Manly Warringah Dolphins 4 Fraser Park Dragons 0.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: FINAL SERIES: GRAND FINALS:

FIRST GRADE: Northern Tigers 0 Mt Pritchard 2 (J Cosentino 33m M Maco 84m).
GRADE 21: Hills United 2 Schofields Scorpions 1.
GRADE 19: Nepean Association 1 Mt Druitt Town 0.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO: FINAL SERIES: MINOR SEMI FINALS:

FIRST GRADE: Concord FC 3 (E Semerci 22/51/80m) University of NSW 0, Camden Tigers 1 (S Matthews 66m) Greystanes Soccer Club 3 (S Erel 4/58/71m).
GRADE 21: Hakoah 1 Hawkesbury City 0, Greystanes Soccer Club 1 Springwood Soccer Club 0, University of NSW 0 Springwood Soccer Club 1 Extra time (0-0 Full time).
GRADE 19: University of NSW 1 Camden Tigers 0.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE: FINAL SERIES: MAJOR SEMI FINALS:

FIRST GRADE: Inter Lions 0 UTS 1.
RESERVE GRADE: UTS 0 Inter Lions 1 Extra time (0-0 Full time).

MINOR SEMI FINALS:

FIRST GRADE: Prospect United 0 Trasandinos 4.
RESERVE GRADE: Trasandinos 1 Prospect United 0.

Nepean came close to doubling their lead several times, mainly through good play from Mort and skilled midfielder Gonzalo Goday.

The match petered out towards the end, with a solid Nepean backline practically digging trenches across the pitch.

Best for the winners were Mort Cameron McDonald, Danny Rosier and Glenn Davis. John Young and Michael Kokoski did well for Mt. Druitt.

NEPEAN ASSOCIATION: David Hotten, Chris Franke, Daniel Mufale, Gareth Jones, Mark Trimbole, Cameron McDonald, Glenn Davis, Sam Mort, Corey Camilleri, Daniel Rosier, Gonzalo Goday.
Subs: Ricky Broome, Koray Buyukokpu, Kerick Lehman, Dave Egan, Frank Daglis.
MOUNT DRUITT: Ben Needham, Anthony Napoli, Matthew Mutch, Scott Bowman, James Park, Braulio Arce, Steven Uroevski, John Young, Ben Dodson, Michael Kokoski, Wayne Grausham.
Subs: Scott Brown, Brandon Katic, Stuart Platt, Tim Wilson, Jarrod Marsh.



Nepean celebrate Sam Mort's winning goal

NEPEAN SHADE RANGERS

Nepean Association took out the NSW First Division Grade 19 Grand Final on Sunday with a narrow 1-0 win over Mount Druitt Town Rangers.

An enthusiastic crowd of about 400 hundred turned up at Hajduk Stadium to watch the early game, and they were not disappointed. The teams put on an engaging spectacle.

Nepean looked the better side for most of the match and were deserved winners, but the Town Rangers never let them get too far ahead, and had opportunities to push the game into extra-time.

In the end, a well-taken goal in the first half by Nepean's Sam Mort was the only difference between the sides.

Mt Druitt tried hard throughout the second period but weren't able to really stamp any authority on the game.

Their best chance fell to Ben Dodson in the 60th minute, from a cross by Tim Wilson, but the useful forward put his header just over the bar.

HILLS SQUASH SCORPIONS

Hills United came from behind to deservedly win the Grade-21 Grand Final against a tenacious Schofields team who fought all the way to the final whistle.

It was a closely-fought and entertaining contest, played out in the swirling wind at Hajduk Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

Schofields took the lead through Louie Elhalabi on the stroke of half-time. The dynamic midfielder smashed home a cross from Dragan Savic, who had done well to beat two Hills players down the left.

It had been an evenly-poised contest until that point, with both sides grappling for control of the midfield and relying on quick breaks to unsettle the opposition.

Hills came out firing after the break, with midfielders Felipe Baccan and Matt Geekie prominent.

Schofields had the better of the chances, though. Todd Macrae showed some stylish skills to out-twist the Hills defence several times, but the prolific marksman couldn't find the back of the net.

Hills replied with long-range efforts from Baccan, Geekie and Nathan Alderman, but their equaliser, when it came, was a simple tap-in by Baccan after Michael McCrory had sent in an excellent low cross from the right.

Schofields almost stormed back into the lead after that, but a barrelling run from Tony Gobrial only resulted in an excellent low save from Hills keeper Andrew Barton.

Fortunes swayed back and forth after that, but United gradually began to attain a dominance in possession and field position.

They drew a few saves from Schofields custodian Luke Martin, but eventually forced and error that lead to the winner.

The keeper was legitimately challenged for a cross and spilled it. The ball flew free to the waiting Adam Waterson, who headed home at the near post.

Frustration set in after Hills' second strike, but the game was generally played in a good spirit, although it was fiercely competitive throughout.



Hills United star Felipe Baccan

Best for the Champions were Baccan, Matt Geekie, Waterson and Ricky Ward. Todd Macrae, Adis Murselovic and Mark Mijas stood out for the Scorpions.

HILLS UNITED: Andrew Barton, Alberto Diez, Nathan Menzies, Liam McGovern, Brad Page, Matt Geekie, Adam Waterson, Ricky Ward, Felipe Baccan, Michael McCrory.
Subs: Ben Pogus, Neil Groarke, Michael Finley, Matthew Ward, Adam Tovill.

CSI SCHOIELDS SCORPIONS: Luke Martin, Timothy Harrington, Damir Dragic, Mark Mijas, Josh Lowndes, Cheyne Davis, Matthew Stow, Louie Elhalabi, Todd Macrae, Adis Murselovic, Dragan Savic.
Subs: Tony Gobrial, Dom Acheampong, Alex Kruger, Kostava, Chris Urbina, Shane Baber.
Red Card: Josh Lowndes 88.



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FIRST DIVISION GRAND FINAL

MOUNTIES TAME TIGERS TO TAKE TITLE

 Northern Tigers	0
 Mount Pritchard	2

Mount Pritchard sealed back-to-back Grand Final wins with a hard-fought 2-0 victory over Premiers Northern Tigers in the NSW First Division on Sunday.

In a match that was evenly balanced throughout, the workman-like Mounties were able to take their chances and so defend their crown.

Captain John Cosentino put his side in the lead with a bizarre long-range effort in the first half, while a great goal on the break from striker Miro Maco made sure of the win in the 83rd minute.

It was a terribly disappointing end to a not-quite-all-conquering season for the Northern Tigers, but they lost to a more disciplined and ruthless team on the day.

In warm but incredibly windy conditions at Hajduk Stadium, both sides began cautiously.

It soon became apparent that any high ball was unpredictable in the swirling gale, and low hard crosses were the order of the day. Tomas Mikulski put in a couple of these for the Tigers early on, but a very no-nonsense Mounties defence was able to deal with the threat.

Northern Tigers had the best chance of the first quarter-hour, when the lively Matt Hunter volleyed over following a Scott Ryan cross.

Miro Maco had an opportunity to put the Mounties ahead in the 25th minute, but his shot ricocheted straight to Tigers custodian Ricky Oppedisano.

The elements played a role in Mt. Pritchard's opening goal. A 25-yard shot by John Cosentino, out on the right, looked like a speculative cross, but the

into delirium.

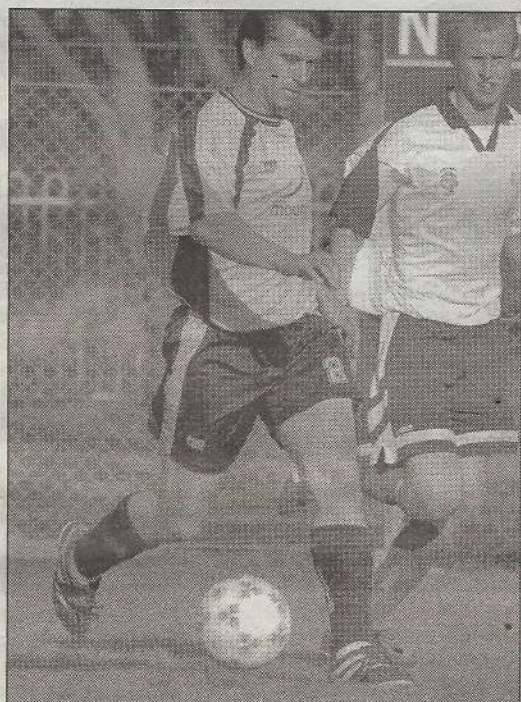
Whether it was a wayward cross or a crafty chip shot we shall never know, but the effect was inarguable: Mt. Pritchard led on the scoreboard.

Maco came close to adding a second just after Cosentino's effort, beating Tigers stopper Damon Thompson but seeing his low shot well held by Oppedisano.

Northern Tigers began to gather some momentum as the half wound down, with Jenke sending a header just over the bar and Nick Femia shooting inches wide after Mt. Pritchard failed to clear following a goal-mouth scramble.

They continued to apply pressure in the second half, with Matt Hunter and Scott Ryan the most dangerous players for the Northside club.

Ryan had a great chance smothered by Mounties keeper Mick Hartas, and Oliver Gomm should have done better when his unchallenged shot from



Tough Mounties defender Peter Vrlc

wind appeared to hold the ball up and it somehow found the top corner.

Oppedisano was rooted to the spot, and for a moment the crowd didn't react, until the sight of Cosentino with arm upraised sent the Mounties supporters

close range flicked off the upright from 8 yards out.

Further scrambling, committed defence saw a couple of threatening moves by the Tigers cleared, as the match seasawed too and fro. It was pin-ball in the Mounties penalty box at times, but Northern Tigers couldn't quite find an opening or, when they did, were unable to connect with a purposeful shot on target.

This game was won in midfield, where lanky Mount Pritchard youngster David Gardiner was doing a superb job of breaking up the Tigers rhythm and distributing the ball. Lucas Flynn also stood out for the Mounties, getting through a heavy football workload on the right.

Even so, the Premiers' pressure was beginning to tell, until Mt. Pritchard managed a quick break-away in the 83rd minute. Miro Maco did exceptionally well to get round both Thompson and Gomm – both of whom resisted the temptation to pull down their opponent – and slot home the ball under the advancing Oppedisano.



Mt Pritchard striker Miro Maco slots home the winner in the 84th minute

Mt. Pritchard had gone from desperately clinging to a narrow lead to coasting along with a comfortable cushion. They almost added a third in the final minute of the match, but Oppedisano stuck out a foot to keep the scoreline respectable.

Until Maco administered the sucker punch, the Grand Final could easily have gone either way. Northern Tigers averaged more field position and shade more possession, but managed to translate it into very few clear-cut scoring chances.

The champions played a calculating game, managing to frustrate their oppo-

nents and thereby walk away with the trophy.

Congratulations to Mount Pritchard, well-deserved NSW First Division Champions for 2003!

NORTHERN TIGERS: Ricky Oppedisano, Matthew Hunter, Danny Hurwitz, Anthony Oppedisano, Damon Thompson, Nick Femia, Jason Mesiti, Oliver Gomm, Ben Jenke, Scott Ryan, Tomas Mikulski.
Coach: Fred Mesiti.

MOUNT PRITCHARD: Mick Hartas, Peter Vrlc, Julian Volpato, Craig Morton, Matthew Hill, Glenn Lowe, David Gardiner, Miro Maco, John Cosentino, Lucas Flynn, Steve Zoric (Fabian Screpis 44).
Coach: Darryl Glover.



Mt Pritchard players celebrated John Cosentino's opening goal



Northern Tigers' Nick Femia takes a tumble



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YOUTH LEAGUE REVIEW

by Barry Davis

barrydavis@soccernsw.com.au

On the weekend we had entertainment galore as the attack Metropolitan League played out their Grand Final, the S.S.I. Girls Youth League reached the first round of their finals series and the Youth League played out their Preliminary Finals. Along with football of the highest quality at each venue, we saw equal measures of elation and disappointment at the final whistle of every match played.

attack Metropolitan League - The Grand Final

Played at Cromer Park on the northern beaches peninsular between the two best performed teams throughout the season, this match was always going to be tight. Bankstown were the Minor Premiers and Gladsville Hornsby were the competition runners-up. The only meeting in the competition had ended in a 1-1 draw and Bankstown had pipped Gladsville 2-1 in the Major Semi Final a fortnight ago. This time the scores were locked at 1-1 at the completion of normal time and then the teams could not be separated during the extra time period so the match was decided from the penalty spot. It was Gladsville's turn to grab the spoils as they prevailed 5-4 in the shoot-out. Both teams are to be congratulated for their outstanding season and for the thrill-a-minute action played out in the Grand Final.

Premier Youth League - The Preliminary Finals

Grade 12. Northern Spirit faced Wollongong Wolves in a game destined to be a thriller and the match did not disappoint. The Wolves had won their home game against Spirit 3-1 during the competition while the Christie Park game ended in a scoreless draw. This time Justin Hayward gave Spirit a twelfth minute lead but the Wolves fought back to find an equaliser through Julian Minutillo in the 38th. With five minutes remaining on the referee's watch, Luis Cameiro gave Spirit the winner that would allow them to meet Blacktown City in the season's decider.

Grand Final Preview. Blacktown City have remained unbeaten throughout the season and they are probably entitled to be the favourites for this match. They were the competition's leading scorers with sixty-one goals and their defensive record was second-to-none as they conceded a measly thirteen goals. In contrast, Spirit had been through a longish slump immediately prior to the finals series but they seem to have regained their form over the past few weeks. Blacktown won the Gabbie Stadium clash 1-0 while the Christie Park match finished in a 1-1 draw.

Grade 13. Olympic Sharks had Parramatta eagles on the back foot for much of the game but they had some difficulty in finding the back of the net during the early stages. Gassan Faraj broke the deadlock in the 26th minute and from that point onward the result was never in doubt. Lloyd Sencer added a second goal in the 40th and then Samuel Gordon scored a cracker from about thirty metres with two minutes to go to seal the game.

Grand Final Preview. Paul Costantini's Blacktown City will start the game as favourites after winning the league by seven points and finishing the season as the third-highest scorers. Their defence has been outstanding, conceding only twelve goals over the course of the season. However, Olympic were the competition runners-up and they scored more goals than anyone and their defence has been extremely effective, allowing only eighteen goals in twenty-six games. The Demons won both the head-to-head clashes and the Major Semi Final 1-0 to give themselves a psychological advantage for the big one.

Grade 14. Olympic Sharks really took the game to the injury-ravaged Blacktown City. It appeared to be only a matter of time before they claimed the spoils and they were rewarded for their efforts with a fine goal from Jonathan Bragias in the twenty-seventh minute. Blacktown obviously took in the well chosen half-time words of coach George Koimanis and they looked far better in the second stanza. However, it was not to be as Bragias bobbed up again on the hour to bag a second goal and give his team a place in the Grand Final.

Grand Final Preview. Minor Premiers Marconi Stallions are deserved favourites to win this game but they could be in for a real surprise. Their in-season defensive record was one of the best in their league and they scored more goals than anyone else. However, Olympic, who scraped into the finals series in fifth spot, have been in good form so far. The head-to-head clashes during the season saw Marconi win 2-0 at home but the Sharks won their home game 2-1.

Grade 15. Minor Premiers Marconi Stallions got off to a very good start when Sammit Kaynak converted a penalty in the fifth minute but Olympic Sharks merely shrugged their shoulders and got on with the game. The action flowed from end-to-end as the teams looked for opportunities to score and eventually Olympic were rewarded with an equaliser when Goran Popovski found the back of the net in the 31st minute. The Stallions restored their lead with a goal from Frank Frio and that proved to be the winner in the final analysis.

Grand Final Preview. Blacktown City were the first team into the Grand Final and their unique brand of possession play in an absolute delight to watch. The big ground at the Gabbie obviously suits their style as they have lost only one of their matches there. Their defensive record is impressive with only twenty goals against their name and they are league's leading scoring teams. In head-to-head action Marconi won at home and the Gabbie Stadium match was a 1-1 draw. Blacktown squared the results account with a 2-0 win in the Major Semi Final.

Grade 17. Wollongong Wolves and Bankstown City went at each other hammer-and-tongs and the result was an absolute ripper of a match. At the end of normal time the scores were all tied up at 2-2 thanks to goals from Blake Coates and Tynan Diaz for the Wolves and Rod Reys and Danny Grozdanovski for the Cubs. The action had flowed freely and there was enough goalmouth drama to satisfy the harshest of critics. It was going to take something very special to break the deadlock and that came early in the second period of extra time when Daniel Miladinski turned on a ball about twenty-five metres out and he unleashed an absolute thunderbolt that gave the Bankstown 'keeper no chance.

Grand Final Preview. Newcastle United have been impressive throughout the season and they will be the favourites for this one. They have the tightest defence in their league and they have banged in a few goals over the course of

the season. Wollongong finished third on goal difference and their attacking record is very similar to that of their opponents but their defence has leaked a few more goals and that could make the difference. The teams drew both in-competition games but Newcastle gained the upper hand with a 2-0 win in the Major Semi Final.

The Grand Finals Draw

Grade 12

Blacktown City vs Northern Spirit at Gabbie Stadium
Saturday 20th September at 9.00am

Grade 13

Blacktown City vs Olympic Sharks at Gabbie Stadium
Saturday 20th September at 10.30am

Grade 14

Marconi Stallions vs Olympic Sharks at Gabbie Stadium
Saturday 20th September at 12.00noon

Grade 15

Blacktown City vs Marconi Stallions at Gabbie Stadium
Saturday 20th September at 1.45pm

Grade 17

Newcastle United vs Wollongong Wolves at Gabbie Stadium
Saturday 20th September at 3.30pm

Super Youth League - The Preliminary Final

Grade 12. Northern Tigers met AC United in a match that promised much in terms of sheer entertainment value. They had finished second and third on the ladder where they were separated by a single point. This time around Northern Tigers gained the upper hand and they have progressed to the Grand Final as a result of their 2-0 win with the goals being provided by N. Wye and A. Greeley.

Grand Final Preview. Minor Premiers Manly Warringah Dolphins are probably entitled to be the favourites for this one as they knocked off the second-placed Tigers at home, drew with them away and then beat them 2-0 in the Major Semi Final two weeks ago. The teams have both scored a massive sixty-three goals but the Dolphins have a better defensive record.

Grade 13. AC United finished the season as Minor Premiers and Nepean were the runners-up so we anticipated a close one here and that is exactly what we got. The game followed from end-to-end but neither team was able to find the back of the net and so extra-time was needed. Nepean made the most of it and the issue was settled with a golden goal from Jamie Farrugia.

Grand Final Preview. Macarthur Rams finished third on the table and they have had a week to recharge their batteries and refine their match plan while they were waiting to find out who their opponents would be. They have scored a few more goals than Nepean but Peter Daglis' team have a better defensive record. **Grade 14.** Third-placed Hajduk Wanderers met fourth-placed Eastern Suburbs and a thrill-a-minute game. Despite their placings, Easterns would have been confident going into this game because they had beaten the Wanderers on both occasions during the season. They did it again with a 1-0 win thanks to a strike from L. Brandt and they have progressed to the season's decider.

Grand Final Preview. Scott Quarumby's Nepean have been the best team all season and they will be hoping to take that good form into the big game. They have the best scoring record in their league and they have the tightest defence so they are probably entitled to be quietly confident. Both competition matches ended as draws.

Grade 15. Minor Premiers Macarthur Rams have not had things all their own way in recent weeks and they may have been a bit edgy going into this game. They were coming off a loss to the Dolphins last week while Hills United were buoyed by a penalty shootout win over Easterns. In the end, Hills got the result 3-1 with eir goals coming from A. Bradley, A. Rezo and T. Ellis while Steve Valle found the net for the Rams.

Grand Final Preview. Manly Warringah finished third on the table and Hills United were fifth so the Dolphins could be considered to be the favourites here. In the final analysis there was a thirteen points difference between them. Manly have the better attacking record and both teams have reasonably solid defences. Manly won their home game during the competition and the other game was a draw and they have not met in this year's finals.

Grade 17. Minor Premiers AC United would have adopted a cautious approach to this game against Northern Tigers as the honours were shared equally with a win each during the season. They had every right to be concerned as they teams battled out a 1-1 draw this time in very close encounter. Extra-time was required but there was to be no break in the deadlock so the dreaded penalty kicks were required. The Tigers won this time, scoring five times to AC's four.

Grand Final Preview. Fairfield Bulls were the first team into the Grand final and they have been waiting to find out who their opponents would be. Because they have beaten the Tigers 2-1 on both occasions during the competition they will be entitled to slight favouritism. They have the better goal scoring figures for the season but the Tigers have a tighter defence.

The Grand Finals Draw

Grade 12

Manly Warringah Dolphins vs Northern Tigers at Christie Park
Saturday 20th September 9.00am

Grade 13

Macarthur Rams vs Nepean at Christie Park
Saturday 20th September 10.30am

Grade 14

Nepean vs Eastern Suburbs at Christie Park
Saturday 20th September 12.00noon

Grade 15

Manly Warringah Dolphins vs Christie Park
Saturday 20th September 1.45pm

Grade 17

Fairfield Bulls vs Northern Tigers at Christie Park
Saturday 20th September 3.30pm

Division One Youth League - The Preliminary Final

Grade 12. Schofields Scorpions showed exactly why they were crowned Minor Premiers with a fine 4-1 win against runners-up Wollongong United. Shane Ardle helped himself to a double and C. Lloyd and D. Foggarty got the others while Adem Woods netted for Wollongong.

Grand Final Preview. Granville Association, placed third on the final table, have had the week off and they now know who they will face. Both teams have tremendous attacking records but the Scorpions have a much tighter defence, having conceded only eight goals this season.

Grade 13. Third-placed Mt Pritchard may have been confident about this game but fifth-placed Ryde City had a bit of a surprise for them. That came in the form of a double strike from Jon Contos.

Grand Final Preview. Minor Premiers Canterbury Bankstown will be reasonably confident about this one. They finished thirteen points ahead of their opponents and they were the leading scorers in their league plus their defence is much tighter. However, Ryde are no slouches in the attacking department and they are coming off three impressive wins in the finals series. Canterbury Bankstown won both in-competition matches reasonably comfortably.

Grade 14. Two points separated second-placed Canterbury Bankstown and third-placed Ryde city on the final table so this was expected to be a very close call and that is what happened. In the end, a single 27th minute goal from J. Sassinae proved to be enough to give Canterbury Bankstown the place in the Grand Final.

Grand Final Preview. Featuring the best two teams in the competition, this game promises to be a little ripper. Both have shown that they are more than capable of scoring lots of goals and their respective defences have been sound all season. Schofields were held to a draw at home but they beat Canterbury Bankstown in the other match.

Grade 15. Fourth-placed Ryde City took on Minor Premiers Dulwich Hill and things almost exactly to plan for the higher placed team. The scores were locked at 1-1 at the completion of normal time after Dulwich Hill had scored first and then Ryde had equalised. Six minutes into extra time D. Dundovic gave Dulwich Hill the Golden Goal result and the place in the Grand Final.

Grand Final Preview. Dulwich Hill may have made it to the Grand Final the hard way but they are there nevertheless. They will have their hands full against runners-up Mt Pritchard. Both have outstanding attacking records supported by strong defences. In the head-to-head encounters during the competition they have a win apiece but the Mounties will have a slight advantage, having beaten Dulwich Hill on penalties in the Major Semi Final.

Grade 17. Second-placed Hawkesbury City and third-placed Dulwich Hill were separated by a single point on the final table so a quality exhibition was expected. The teams battled out a 1-1 draw in normal time after Dulwich Hill had taken a 23rd minute lead and then Hawkesbury had equalised in the 48th. They were still all tied up at the end of extra time so penalty kicks were required. Dulwich Hill won the shootout 5-4.

Grand Final Preview. Minor Premiers Stanmore Hawks have had the benefit of a week off and they will be looking forward to this one as it is a local derby. Dulwich Hill have a very good attacking record but Stanmore's defence is fairly tight so this game could go down to the wire.

The Grand Finals Draw

Grade 12

Granville vs Schofields Scorpions at Christie Park
Sunday 21st September at 9.00am

Grade 13

Canterbury Bankstown vs Ryde City at Christie Park
Sunday 21st September at 10.30am

Grade 14

Schofields Scorpions vs Canterbury Bankstown at Christie Park
Sunday 21st September at 12.00noon

Grade 15

Dulwich Hill vs Mt Pritchard at Christie Park
Sunday September 21 at 1.45pm

Grade 17

Stanmore Hawks vs Dulwich Hill at Christie Park
Sunday September 21 at 3.30pm

S.S.I. Girls Youth League - The Finals Series

Grade 12. Major Semi Final. Minor Premiers Macarthur Rams had taken four points from Manly Warringah Dolphins during the competition with a win and a draw and they went on with the job this time with a 3-1 victory. The Rams will progress to the Grand Final in a fortnight while the Dolphins will play in the Preliminary Final on Sunday.

Minor Semi Final. Third-placed Nepean had beaten St George at home and they drew the other match in the competition and they continued that good form with a 2-1 win that has seen them go through to the Preliminary Final.

Grade 14. Major Semi Final. Minor Premiers Olympic Sharks had won the competition by six points and they carried that good form into the finals with a 3-2 win over second-placed Manly Warringah Dolphins and they have now qualified for the Grand Final.

Minor Semi Final. Fourth-placed Macarthur Rams sprung a little surprise on North West Sydney Koalas with a 1-0 win that has carried them through to the Preliminary Final.

Grade 16. Major Semi Final. Unbeaten Southern Branch showed more of their stunning form with a 1-0 win over Marconi and they must now be favoured to take out the grand Final in two weeks time.

Minor Semi Final. North West Sydney Koalas showed that finishing in fourth place has not hampered their ambitions as they progressed to the Preliminary Final with a 1-0 win over Olympic Sharks.



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YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: PRELIMINARY FINALS:

GRADE 12: Wollongong Wolves 1 Northern Spirit 2.
GRADE 13: Olympic Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 0.
GRADE 14: Blacktown City 0 Olympic Sharks 2.
GRADE 15: Marconi Stallions 2 Olympic Sharks 1.
GRADE 17: Wollongong Wolves 3 Bankstown City Cubs 2 Extra time (2-2 Full time).

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: PRELIMINARY FINALS:

GRADE 12: Northern Tigers 2 AC United 0.
GRADE 13: AC United 0 Nepean Association 1 Extra time (0-0 Extra time).

GRADE 14: Hajduk Wanderers 0 Eastern Suburbs.

GRADE 15: Macarthur Rams 1 Hills United 3.
GRADE 17: AC United 4 Northern Tigers 5 Win by penalties (1-1 Full time 1-1 Extra time).

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: PRELIMINARY FINALS:

GRADE 12: Schofields Scorpions 4 Wollongong United 1.
GRADE 13: Mt Pritchard 0 Ryde City 2.
GRADE 14: Canterbury Bankstown 1 Ryde City 0.
GRADE 15: Dulwich Hill 2 Ryde City 1 Extra time (1-1 Full time).



GRADE 17: Hawkesbury City 4 Dulwich Hill 5 Win by penalties (1-1 Full time 1-1 Extra time).

GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: MAJOR SEMI FINALS:

GRADE 12: Macarthur Rams 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1. GRADE 14: Olympic Sharks 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 2. GRADE 16: Southern Branch 1 Marconi 0. MINOR SEMI

FINALS:

GRADE 12: Nepean Association 2 St George Association 1. GRADE 14: North West Sydney Koalas 0 Macarthur Rams 1.
GRADE 16: Olympic Sharks 0 North West Sydney Koalas 1.

BOYS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: GRAND FINAL:

GRADE 11: Bankstown Association 4 Gladesville Hornsby Association 5 win by penalties (1-1 Full time 1-1 Extra time).

For all the latest news, results and information see www.soccernsw.com.au

STATE COACHING POSITIONS

NSW Country & Metropolitan State Teams 2004

Soccer NSW is seeking expressions of interest for the following State Team Coaching Positions:

NSW Country Girls

- ◆ U14 Coach
- ◆ U14 Manager
- ◆ U14 Trainer
- ◆ U15 Coach
- ◆ U15 Manager
- ◆ U15 Trainer
- ◆ U17 Coach
- ◆ U17 Manager
- ◆ U17 Trainer

NSW Country Boys

- ◆ U14 Coach
- ◆ U14 Manager
- ◆ U14 Trainer

◆ Goalkeeper Coaches x 2

NSW Metropolitan Girls

- ◆ U14 Coach
- ◆ U14 Manager
- ◆ U14 Trainer
- ◆ U15 Coach
- ◆ U15 Manager
- ◆ U15 Trainer
- ◆ U17 Coach
- ◆ U17 Manager
- ◆ U17 Trainer

NSW Metropolitan Boys

- ◆ U14 Coach
- ◆ U14 Manager
- ◆ U14 Trainer



Essential Criteria for Team Coaches:

- ◆ Minimum Senior License (ACC approved accreditation)
- ◆ Demonstrated experience with Elite Youth Soccer Players
- ◆ Sound knowledge of Soccer NSW Youth League Structure and Competition
- ◆ Demonstrated experience in planning and implementing coaching programs at an elite level
- ◆ Excellent communication and management skills

Essential Criteria for Team Managers:

- ◆ Demonstrated experience in Managing a team at an elite level
- ◆ Sound knowledge of Soccer NSW Youth League Structure and Competition
- ◆ Excellent communication skills both written and verbal

Essential Criteria for Team Trainers:

- ◆ Level 2 Sports Trainer qualifications (Sports Medicine Australia approved accreditation) or relevant tertiary education in Sport Science or related field
- ◆ Current Senior First Aid Certificate
- ◆ Demonstrated experience in working with elite athletes

Essential Criteria for Goalkeeper Coaches:

- ◆ Minimum Senior License (ACC approved accreditation)
- ◆ Minimum Youth Goalkeeper License (ACC approved accreditation)
- ◆ Demonstrated experience with Elite Youth Soccer Players
- ◆ Sound knowledge of Soccer NSW Youth League Structure and Competition
- ◆ Demonstrated experience in planning and implementing coaching programs at an elite level
- ◆ Excellent communication and management skills

These positions are Child Related Positions and will be subject to a Working With Children Check. Prohibited Persons need not apply. All applications must meet the essential criteria and resumés should have a reference to the position you are applying for. Due to the large number of expressions of interest, the deadline for applications has been extended to Friday 19th September, 2003. Please forward your resumé marked 'Private & Confidential' to:

Linda Christie - Human Resources
PO Box 6146 Baulkham Hills BC 2153
linda@soccernsw.com.au fax 020 9629 3770
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FUTURE SOCCEROOS AT LILLI PILLI?

One Sydney team with an amazing record is the Lilli Pilli 8A team that plays in the Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Association competition.

The team finished the 2003 Season spectacularly after scoring 92 goals and conceding only 6. They have continued their undefeated performance for 3 consecutive years. Their record during the last three seasons shows an amazing for and against tally of 308 goals for to just 19 against. Extraordinary!

The Lilli Pilli 8A's also won an Under 8 Gala Day held at the Sylvania Heights Junior Soccer Club on the 10th of August 2003. 16 teams from Bundeena to Cronulla who participated. The Lilli Pilli 8A Team was undefeated throughout the day.

The Under 10A's continued the Lilli Pilli winning trend by recently taking out the Auspak Cup, an elite competition put together by the Pagewood Botany

Soccer Club which matched up U10 champion sides from all around greater Sydney.

The side competed against A.P.I.A. Leichardt, Bankstown Sports, Eschol Park, Easts and Heffron Park. With 3 Wins and 2 Draws, the team won its pool and took on Belmore Hercules in the first semi final of the day. They

eventually defeated Illawarra side Figtree in a penalty shoot-out to claim victory in the Grand Final.

Soccer NSW is interested to know whether any other junior teams from around the state can match Lilli Pilli's success. Readers are encouraged to send stories about their local club to media@soccernsw.com.au



The all-conquering Lilli Pilli Under 8a's



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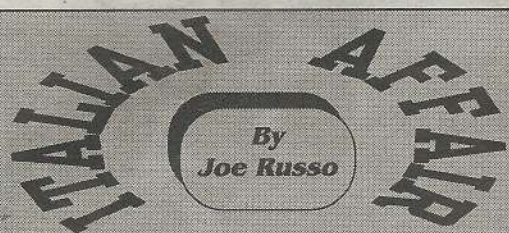
1	14/09/2003	Eurobodala	0	Bankstown	3	10	Hanging Rock Complex
1	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	0	Granville	4	17	Thistle Park
1	14/09/2003	Central Coast	4	Canterbury	1	18	Fraser Park
1	14/09/2003	Eurobodala	0	Bankstown	10	AA	Hanging Rock Complex
1	14/09/2003	South West Slopes	4	Blacktown	1	AA	Mitchell Park 1
1	14/09/2003	Mitchell	1	Manly Warringah	3	AA	Proctor Park 1
1	14/09/2003	Central Coast	4	Canterbury	1	AA	Blair Park
1	14/09/2003	Highlands	2	Sutherland	6	AA	Yerrinbool Oval 1
1	14/09/2003	Holiday Coast	6	Eastern Suburbs	0	AA	McLean Street, Oval. 1
1	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	1	Ku.Ring.Gai	0	AA	South Nowra.S.F. 1
1	14/09/2003	Dubbo	3	Nepean	8	AA	Lady Cutler Res. 1
1	14/09/2003	Albury Wodonga		Sydney Amateur Lge		AA	Aloysius Park
1	14/09/2003	Orange	0	Southern Districts	3	O35	Jack Brabham Park 4
1	14/09/2003	Highlands	0	Sutherland	4	O35	Yerrinbool Oval 2
1	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	0	Granville	6	O35	Crawford Park
1	14/09/2003	S'thern Tabetlands	0	G'sville Hornsby	2	O35	Cookbundoon Pk 1
1	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	4	Ku.Ring.Gai	6	O35	South Nowra.S.F. 2
1	14/09/2003	Mitchell	0	Manly Warringah	2	14W	Proctor Park 2
1	14/09/2003	S'thern Tabetlands	0	Nth West Women	4	14W	Cookbundoon Pk 3
1	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	2	Ku.Ring.Gai	1	14W	South Nowra.S.F. 1
1	14/09/2003	Mitchell	5P	Manly Warringah	6P	16W	Proctor Park 2
1	14/09/2003	Central Coast	0	Canterbury	2	16W	Ron Routley.Oval. 2
1	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	1	Granville	3	16W	Neilson Park 1
1	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	3	Ku.Ring.Gai	0	16W	South Nowra.S.F. 1
1	14/09/2003	Central Coast	0	Canterbury	2	O35	Blair Park
2	14/09/2003	Orange	0	Southern Districts	8	10	Jack Brabham Park 5
3	14/09/2003	South West Slopes	0	Blacktown	7	10	Bull Paddock
4	14/09/2003	Mitchell	0	Manly Warringah	8	10	Proctor Park 1
5	14/09/2003	Central Coast	1	Canterbury	3	10	Fraser Park
6	14/09/2003	Highlands	1	Sutherland	8	10	Yerrinbool Oval 1
7	14/09/2003	Holiday Coast	1	Eastern Suburbs	2	10	McLean Street, Oval. 2
9	14/09/2003	S'thern Tabetlands	0	G'sville Hornsby	7	10	Cookbundoon Pk 4
10	14/09/2003	Griffith	0	Illawarra	3	10	West End Oval 1
11	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	0	Ku.Ring.Gai	2	10	South Nowra.S.F. 4
13	14/09/2003	Dubbo	2	Nepean	3	10	Lady Cutler Res. 1
17	14/09/2003	Orange	0	Southern Districts	8	11	Jack Brabham Park 5
18	14/09/2003	South West Slopes	0	Blacktown	7	11	Mitchell Park 1
19	14/09/2003	Mitchell	1	Manly Warringah	4	11	Proctor Park 2
20	14/09/2003	Central Coast	0	Canterbury	1	11	Fraser Park
21	14/09/2003	Highlands	0	Sutherland	4	11	Yerrinbool Oval 2
22	14/09/2003	Holiday Coast	2	Eastern Suburbs	1	11	McLean Street, Oval. 1
23	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	3	Granville	1	11	Thistle Park
24	14/09/2003	S'thern Tabetlands	0	G'sville Hornsby	4	11	Cookbundoon Pk 5
25	14/09/2003	Griffith	1	Illawarra	2	11	West End Oval 2
26	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	0	Ku.Ring.Gai	2	11	South Nowra.S.F. 3
28	14/09/2003	Dubbo	0	Nepean	3	11	Lady Cutler Res. 2
31	14/09/2003	Eurobodala	1	Bankstown	3	12	Hanging Rock Complex
32	14/09/2003	Orange	0	Southern Districts	3	12	Jack Brabham Park 4
33	14/09/2003	South West Slopes	2	Blacktown	1	12	Mitchell Park 2
34	14/09/2003	Mitchell	0	Manly Warringah	2	12	Proctor Park 3
35	14/09/2003	Central Coast	0	Canterbury	1	12	Blair Park
36	14/09/2003	Highlands	0	Sutherland	6	12	Yerrinbool Oval 1
37	14/09/2003	Holiday Coast	1	Eastern Suburbs	3	12	Ayreshire Park
38	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	2	Granville	1	12	Neilson Park 2
39	14/09/2003	S'thern Tabetlands	1	G'sville Hornsby	2	12	Cookbundoon Pk 4
40	14/09/2003	Griffith	1	Illawarra	7	12	West End Oval 1
41	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	1	Ku.Ring.Gai	5	12	South Nowra.S.F. 2
43	14/09/2003	Dubbo	2	Nepean	0	12	Lady Cutler Res. 3
47	14/09/2003	Orange	1	Southern Districts	7	13	Jack Brabham Park 4
48	14/09/2003	South West Slopes	1	Blacktown	7	13	Bull Paddock
49	14/09/2003	Mitchell	3	Manly Warringah	0	13	Proctor Park 1
50	14/09/2003	Central Coast	0	Canterbury	3	13	Fraser Park
51	14/09/2003	Highlands	0	Sutherland	5	13	Yerrinbool Oval 2
52	14/09/2003	Holiday Coast	6P	Eastern Suburbs	7P	13	McLean Street, Oval. 2
53	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	4	Granville	1	13	Crawford Park
54	14/09/2003	S'thern Tabetlands	0	G'sville Hornsby	6	13	Cookbundoon Pk 5
55	14/09/2003	Griffith	3	Illawarra	2	13	West End Oval 2
56	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	0	Ku.Ring.Gai	3	13	South Nowra.S.F. 4
58	14/09/2003	Dubbo	3	Nepean	2	13	Lady Cutler Res. 1
62	14/09/2003	Orange	0	Southern Districts	5	14	Jack Brabham Park 4
63	14/09/2003	South West Slopes	1	Blacktown	4	14	Bull Paddock
64	14/09/2003	Mitchell	1	Manly Warringah	0	14	Proctor Park 3
65	14/09/2003	Central Coast	3	Canterbury	4	14	Ron Routley.Oval. 2
66	14/09/2003	Highlands	1	Sutherland	0	14	Yerrinbool Oval 1
68	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	1	Granville	2	14	Thistle Park
69	14/09/2003	Southern Tabetlands	0	Gladesville Hornsby	6	14	Cookbundoon Pk 2
71	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	0	Ku.Ring.Gai	3	14	South Nowra.S.F. 3

(Round One Champion of Champions Continued next week)

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ITALIAN SERIE A



Italy's recent 4-0 win over Wales in the Group 9 Euro 2004 qualifying match has gone a long way to exorcising the demons from Cardiff last season when the Azzurri were beaten 2-1 by the same opponents.

However, the following game against Serbia & Montenegro was not merely as positive. Held to a 1-1 draw in Belgrade by a fairly young unknown team is not a great omen.

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni was elated after the Wales game and was especially pleased that Filippo Inzaghi and Alessandro Del Piero were the scorers.

Trapattoni had shown faith by selecting the duo and they certainly repaid it in abundance. Inzaghi scored a hat-trick and Del Piero got the fourth goal.

Thanks to other results though Italy still leads Group 9 and now looks almost certain to qualify for Portugal 2004.

There was further good news for Italy at Under 21 in Pavia some ten days ago. The Under 21 side, known as the little Azzurri ('Azzurrini') absolutely tore apart the Wales Under 21 side to the tune of 8-1.

Coached by former legendary tough defender Claudio Gentile, the Under 21's showed that the quality of players coming through the ranks augurs well for Italy in the future.

At least the Serie A got underway in Italy on time but the Serie B is still a shambles.

In the first round of play a few weeks ago there were no surprises. Juventus, Inter, AC Milan, Lazio and Roma all won.

They are the five favourite teams this year and if all goes to prediction then they will fight it out for the top four places in next year's Champions League.

Inter, once again under the guidance of Hector Cuper and minus Hernan Crespo who has moved to Chelsea, were not convincing in disposing of Modena.

Christian Vieri, who was rumoured to be on the way out of Milan to Chelsea over the summer, is without doubt the heart and soul of the team.

For Inter chasing the Italian Serie A League Title (Scudetto) has become somewhat of an obsession. For so many years they have bought the best players available but have not been able to break through to claim the vital title.

The last time Inter were crowned Champions of Italy was way back in 1989 when they were under the guidance of current national team mentor Trapattoni.

There are similarities here to Ivan Lendl, the great tennis player of the 1980's, and his obsession with winning Wimbledon. There were so many attempts for so little reward.

President Massimo Moratti must have had a brain explosion over the summer when he considered letting Vieri go to Chelsea. Without Vieri there would definitely be no Scudetto for Inter.

Juventus, the current champions, seem to have picked up where they had left off last season. They are led by the in-form Del Piero and can count on world class players such as Pavel Nedved, Gianluca Zambrotta, Lillian Thuram, David Trezeguet and Gianluigi Buffon to name a few.

AC Milan, the current holders of the Champions League, will also be there at the end of the season.

Once again Paolo Maldini whose loyalty to the black and reds can never be questioned captains them.

At the UEFA awards in Monaco a few weeks back he received the President Lennart Johansson's special award for services to the game. Maldini is arguably the greatest defender to have played for AC Milan and Italy and his 129 appearances in an Azzurri is truly a marvellous achievement.

Lazio have welcomed into their team veteran midfielder Demetrio Albertini who was once a fixture in the AC Milan and Italy midfield.

Albertini was in Spain last year with Atletico Madrid but he was lured back to Italy over the summer.

He scored a majestic goal on the opening day to show all and sundry that he is still capable of Serie A football. Even though he spent so many years in Milan he is not unfamiliar with Rome as his wife is from the capital.

The Serie B clubs, who have acted like spoilt brats over the past few weeks, should consider asking their players in the future if they want to sit out and wait for the competition to begin.

Their ridiculous decision directly affects Socceroo captain Paul Okon's return to Italy. Okon, formerly of Lazio and Fiorentina, has joined Vicenza in a bid to resurrect his club career after he was clearly told by Leeds Manager, Peter Reid, that there was no future for him at Elland Road.

We can only wish Okon the best of luck because when he was at his peak he had a horror run of injuries and was never able to show Lazio what a gifted player he was.

Meanwhile Sydney listeners can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news.

PARMA3
PERUGIA0

Australian Mark Bresciano put Parma on their way with a cool finish after he latched on to a smart pass from Domenico Morfeo and an Adriane penalty five minutes after the break, following a handball from Yamal Alioui, put Cesare Prandelli's side firmly in charge.

Italy under-21 striker Alberto Gilardino grabbed the third in the 84th minute, racing on to a knock down from Adriano, to score just six minutes after coming on as a substitute.

CHIEVO1
JUVENTUS2

The champions maintained their winning start to the season but had to come from behind to keep up their 100 percent record against Chievo.

The Verona outfit went ahead in the 21st minute with a Lorenzo D'Anna penalty after Mauro Camoranesi had brought down Chievo striker Giuseppe Sculli.

But Marcello Lippi's side were on level terms within five minutes as former Chievo defender Nicola Legrottaglie rose well to head in a Camoranesi free-kick.

French forward David Trezeguet's winner came with a cool strike as he brought down a cross from Gianluca Zambrotta and beat Chievo keeper Luca Marchegiani with a left-foot finish.

EMPOLI1
REGGINA1

Just 5,000 fans turned out for the meeting of two sides who narrowly avoided the drop last season and they saw the visitors go ahead with a firmly-struck free-kick from Brazilian Mozart.

A right-foot strike from Antonio Di Natale four minutes before the break put Empoli on level terms and although the Tuscan's piled on the pressure after the break they had to settle for a point.

LECCE3
ANCONA1

Both sides were promoted from Serie B last season but it is Lecce who look the more likely to be staying around after an impressive attacking display.

Sebastiano Siviglia headed in the opener in the 34th minute and although a Maurizio Ganz penalty



Reggina's Santos Batista Mozart (right) scores against Empoli with this thundering free-kick at Empoli's Carlo Castellano Stadium.

drew Ancona level after the break, a well-worked goal from the impressive Mirko Vucinec and a fine finish from Marco Cassetti ensured a comfortable win.

MODENA0
UDINESE1

It was hard work for Udinese after they had Alberto Do Carmo sent off for a second yellow card in the 28th minute following a late challenge on Diomansy Kamara.

The winner didn't come until eight minutes from time when Omar Milanetto brought down Marek Jankulovski and Chilean playmaker David Pizarro converted the spot-kick.

AS ROMA5
BRESCIA0

It was all over within 33 minutes as Roma turned in a head-turning display led by Francesco Totti.

Vincenzo Montella opened the scoring with a sharp finish after good work from Antonio Cassano and then a spectacular free-kick from debutant Cristian Chivu and a cool Totti strike after a swift exchange with Cassano left Brescia dazed.

Totti wrapped up the win after the break with a sublime chip from the edge of the penalty area before another player making his Rome debut, Norwegian John Carew, completed the rout with an 89th minute penalty.

SIENA0
INTER MILAN1

Inter, without injured striker Christian Vieri, were made to work for the three points after going ahead on the half hour when Marco Materazzi's header from an Andy van der Meyde cross was headed in by Siena's Brazilian defender Leandro Cufre.

Siena, playing their first ever home game in the top flight, almost grabbed a late equaliser when former Torino defender Daniele Delli Carri headed against the bar from close range.

AC MILAN2
BOLOGNA1

Filippo Inzaghi continued his prolific start to the season grabbing a late winner for European champions AC Milan as they beat Bologna 2-1.

Inzaghi, who scored four goals in Italy's two European championship qualifiers last week, claimed the decisive goal for Carlo Ancelotti's side five minutes from the end at the San Siro stadium.

Milan had taken the lead in the 10th minute through an Andriy Shevchenko header but Bologna went in level at the interval after a superb 25-metre strike from Carlo Nervo.

SAMPDORIA1
LAZIO2

Lazio ruined Sampdoria's celebration of their return to Serie A with Roberto Mancini's side win-

FIXTURES		
Sunday 21st September		
Ancona	v	Modena
Bologna	v	Udinese
Brescia	v	Reggina
Inter	v	Sampdoria
Juventus	v	Roma
Lazio	v	Parma
Lecce	v	Chievo
Perugia	v	Milan
Siena	v	Empoli

SERIE A

AC Milan 2 Bologna 1, Sampdoria 1 Lazio 2, Empoli 1 Reggina 1, Lecce 3 Ancona 1, Modena 0 Udinese 1, Parma 3 Perugia 0, AS Roma 5 Brescia 0, Siena 0 Inter Milan 1, Chievo 1 Juventus 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Roma	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
2 Juventus	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
3 Lazio	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
4 Milan	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
5 Internazionale	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
6 Parma	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
7 Udinese	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
8 Lecce	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
9 Reggina	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
10 Bologna	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
11 Sampdoria	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
12 Chievo	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
13 Siena	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
14 Perugia	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
15 Empoli	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
16 Brescia	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
17 Modena	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
18 Ancona	2	0	0	2	1	5	0



ENGLISH



PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa 3 Leicester City 1, Bolton 0 Charlton 0, Chelsea 2 Blackburn 2, Everton 0 Liverpool 3, Middlesbrough 2 Leeds Utd 3, Newcastle Utd 0 Birmingham City 1, Tottenham 0 Fulham 3, Wolverhampton 0 Portsmouth 0, Southampton 1 Man Utd 0, Man City 1 Arsenal 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	5	4	1	0	11	3	13
Man Utd	5	4	0	1	9	2	12
Man City	5	3	1	1	12	6	10
Chelsea	4	3	1	0	10	6	10
Portsmouth	5	2	3	0	8	3	9
Southampton	5	2	3	0	5	2	9
Liverpool	5	2	2	1	7	3	8
Birmingham	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Fulham	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
Blackburn	5	1	2	2	12	11	5
Leeds	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Charlton	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Everton	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
Bolton	5	1	2	2	4	10	5
Aston Villa	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Tottenham	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
Newcastle	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
Leicester	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
Middlesbrough	5	0	1	4	4	12	1
Wolverhampton	5	0	1	4	1	12	1

FIRST DIVISION

Bradford 2 Preston 1, Cardiff 5 Gillingham 0, Coventry 4 Stoke 2, Norwich 2 Burnley 0, Nottingham Forest 3 Sheffield Utd 1, Rotherham 0 Crewe 2, Sunderland 2 Crystal Palace 1, Walsall 0 Derby 1, Watford 3 Millwall 1, West Bromwich 4 Ipswich 1, West Ham 1 Reading 0, Wimbledon 2 Wigan 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom	6	5	0	1	12	6	15
Wigan	6	4	1	1	11	5	13
West Ham	6	4	1	1	6	3	13
Sunderland	6	4	0	2	10	4	12
Nottm Forest	6	4	0	2	11	7	12
Cardiff	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
Reading	6	3	2	1	10	4	11
Sheff Utd	6	3	2	1	6	5	11
Crystal Palace	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
Norwich	6	3	1	2	9	7	10
Crewe	6	3	1	2	6	5	10
Millwall	7	2	3	2	9	9	9
Burnley	7	3	0	4	9	12	9
Gillingham	7	2	3	2	7	13	9
Stoke	7	2	2	3	9	9	8
Bradford	6	2	1	3	6	9	7
Walsall	6	1	3	2	6	5	6
Coventry	5	1	2	2	7	8	5
Rotherham	6	1	2	3	1	7	5
Watford	5	1	1	3	5	7	4
Preston	6	1	1	4	4	8	4
Derby	6	1	1	4	4	11	4
Wimbledon	6	1	0	5	9	16	3
Ipswich	6	0	2	4	4	10	2

SECOND DIVISION

Blackpool 1 Bournemouth 2, Chesterfield 0 Notts County 1, Colchester 1 Brighton 0, Oldham 1 Bristol City 1, Plymouth 2 Luton 1, Port Vale 3 Barnsley 1, QPR 0 Wycombe 0, Rushden & Diamonds 0 Brentford 1, Sheff Wed 2 Stockport 2, Swindon 1 Wrexham 0, Tranmere 0 Peterborough 0, Hartlepool 8 Grimsby 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Vale	7	5	1	1	14	10	16
Sheff Wed	7	4	2	1	14	10	14
Barnsley	7	4	2	1	10	6	14
Hartlepool	7	3	3	1	17	8	12
QPR	7	3	3	1	15	7	12
Swindon	7	3	3	1	14	9	12
Plymouth	7	3	3	1	15	11	12
Brighton	7	3	2	2	12	9	11
Bristol City	7	2	4	1	10	5	10
Wrexham	6	3	1	2	5	4	10
Rushden & D'monds	7	3	1	3	12	12	10
Luton	7	3	1	3	11	11	10
Bournemouth	7	2	3	2	8	8	9
Peterborough	7	2	2	3	9	8	8
Colchester	7	2	2	3	9	10	8
Grimsby	7	2	2	3	10	16	8
Tranmere	7	1	4	2	7	7	7
Blackpool	6	2	1	3	9	15	7
Oldham	7	1	3	3	10	13	6
Stockport	7	1	3	3	9	12	6
Brentford	7	2	0	5	5	13	6
Wycombe	7	1	2	4	8	13	5
Notts County	7	1	2	4	3	13	5
Chesterfield	7	0	4	3	5	11	4

ARSENAL 1 PORTSMOUTH 1

Promoted Portsmouth ended Arsenal's perfect start to the season, going ahead in the 26th minute when former Tottenham favourite Teddy Sheringham silenced the Highbury faithful with a diving header for his fifth goal of the season.

Arsenal equalised with a twice-taken penalty by Thierry Henry after 39 minutes after referee Alan Wiley ruled that Dejan Stefanovic fouled Robert Pires on the edge of the box.

BLACKBURN 1 LIVERPOOL 3

Despite a heroic goalkeeping display by Brad Friedel against his old club, Liverpool took all three points with two goals from Michael Owen and one from Harry Kewell.

Liverpool's Czech striker Milan Baros was carried off after five minutes with a broken ankle. Matt Jansen fired Blackburn ahead after eight minutes but four minutes later Liverpool were level thanks to an Owen penalty after Vratislav Gresko hauled down El Hadj Diouf in the box.

Five minutes later Blackburn's Australian defender Lucas Neill was sent off for a wild tackle on Jamie Carragher, who will be out of action for six months after breaking his leg in the tackle.

Owen put Liverpool 2-1 ahead after 68 minutes and Harry Kewell wrapped up the points with the third in the 90th minute.

BOLTON 2 M'BROUGH 0

Kevin Davis headed Bolton ahead after 23 minutes to put them on their way to their first win of the season while Middlesbrough remain winless after five matches.

Bruno N'Gotty added a second for Bolton nine minutes from time to condemn Middlesbrough to their worst start for 19 years.

CHARLTON 0 MAN UTD 2

Manchester United closed the gap on Arsenal to one point at the top



Chelsea's Two-goal hero Adrian Mutu is mobbed by teammates.

after two goals from Ruud Van Nistelrooy gave them a 2-0 win at The Valley.

Van Nistelrooy put Manchester United ahead with a scrappy 62nd-minute goal after Charlton failed to clear a Ryan Giggs free-kick.

Matters worsened for Charlton three minutes later when Jason Euell was sent off for a late challenge on Gary Neville but United wrapped up the points nine minutes from time with Van Nistelrooy's second goal of the game.

MAN CITY 4 ASTON VILLA 1

French striker Nicolas Anelka hit a second-half hat-trick as Manchester City came from behind to crush Aston Villa 4-1.

Trailing at the break to a header from Colombian striker Juan Pablo Angel, Manchester City hit back with a free-kick from German midfielder

Michael Tarnat and the first of two penalties converted by Anelka within five minutes of the re-start.

The Frenchman scored again from the spot before breaking away to seal his first hat-trick in a City shirt and his team's first league win at their new home.

B'HAM-CITY 2 FULHAM 2

Fulham drew 2-2 at Birmingham City in a scrappy game with both sides finishing with 10 men.

Birmingham City's new Finnish striker Mikael Forssell equalised twice on his debut at St Andrews.

Frenchman Louis Saha put Fulham ahead in the first minute, Forssell levelled in first-half stoppage time but Luis Boa Morte restored the visitors' lead in the 78th minute despite French team mate Sylvain Legwinski having been red carded.

Forssell poached his second from close range to make it 2-2 in the 82nd minute.

CHELSEA 4 TOTTENHAM 2

Chelsea extended their unbeaten league run against Spurs to 27 matches since 1990 despite falling behind to a Frederic Kanoute goal after 25 minutes.

Frank Lampard equalised with a

header after 35 minutes. Chelsea went ahead two minutes later when Adrian Mutu fired home his seventh goal in seven games for club and country.

Mutu sprung Spurs' offside trap after 75 minutes to put Chelsea 3-1 ahead before Kanoute scored a second for Tottenham with three minutes to play. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink sealed the win with Chelsea's fourth in the final minute.

EVERTON 2 NEWCASTLE UTD 2

There were two sendings-off and three penalties in a lively match at Goodison Park which ended all square.

Newcastle United's Laurent Robert was sent off after 40 minutes for a foul on Everton's Tobias Linderoth but Newcastle United took the lead after 59 minutes when Alan Shearer scored from a penalty after Gary Naysmith was sent off for fouling Kieron Dyer.

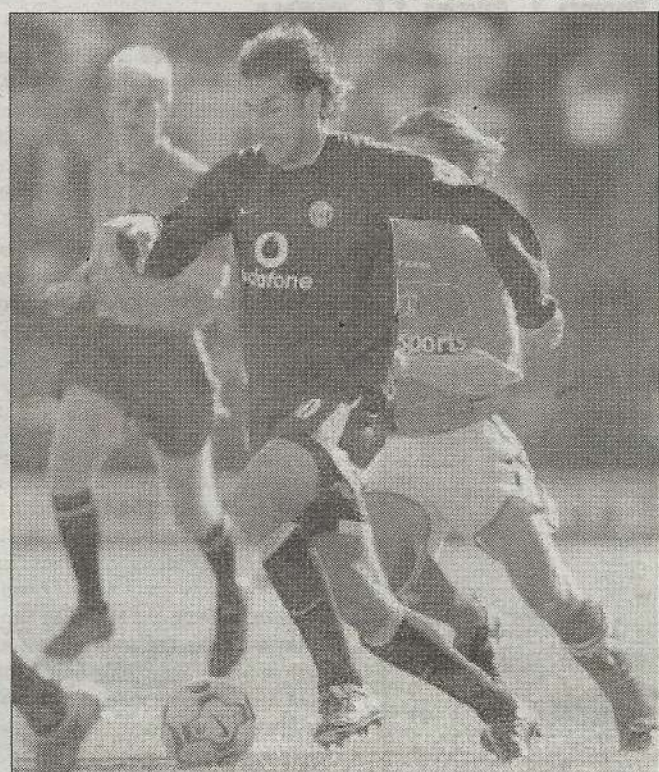
Tomasz Radzinski equalised for Everton after 67 minutes but Newcastle went 2-1 up when Shearer scored with his second penalty after 82 minutes following a foul by Joseph Yobo on Olivier Bernard.

Everton substitute Duncan Ferguson scored with the third penalty of the match against his former club to make it 2-2 after 88 minutes.

FIXTURES

Saturday 20th September

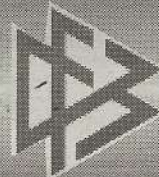
Aston Villa	v	Charlton
Fulham	v	Man City
Leeds	v	Birmingham
Liverpool	v	Leicester
Man Utd	v	Arsenal
Middlesbrough	v	Everton
Newcastle	v	Bolton
Portsmouth	v	Blackburn
Tottenham	v	Southampton
Wolverhampton	v	Chelsea



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy runs with the ball past Scott Parker of Charlton.



German Bundesliga



VFL Wolfsburg recorded their first ever win over Bayern Munich with two goals in the final ten minutes capping a 3-2 win at the Volkswagen Arena, allowing Bayer Leverkusen to return to the Bundesliga summit after victory over SV Hamburg.

Dutchman Roy Makaay looked to have handed Bayern victory with his first goal for the club since his off-season transfer, but a brace from Wolfsburg's Brazilian debutant Baiano and a late winner from Diego Klimowicz saw Bayern lose their first game of the season.

A first-half headed goal from Brazilian defender Juan clinched the game for leaders Leverkusen, who are back at the top again, and helped confirm they had recovered from their disastrous run last season.

UEFA Cup entrants Hamburg SV are an embarrassing second from bottom with four defeats and a draw from five games.

Socceroo striker Paul Agostino celebrated his 100th Bundesliga game by hitting the winner against Cologne with seven minutes remaining.

Cameroon striker Francis Kioyo, who has joined TSV 1860 Munich from Cologne, opened the scoring from close range on seven minutes but the visitors

responded through midfielder Christian Springer in the 61st minute.

Werder Bremen led the pack before Saturday's matches but fell to a 2-1 defeat against Borussia Dortmund in front of 81,000 fans at the refurbished Westfalen Stadium.

A goal from Brazilian Ewerthon, replacing injured compatriot Marcio Amoroso, combined with an own goal from Valerien Ismael saw Dortmund gain revenge for last season's 2-1 reverse, their only home defeat of the season.

Hertha Berlin striker Fredi Bobic built on his goal against Scotland in midweek with a brace against for-

mer club Hannover, but it was not enough as the visitors triumphed 3-2 in the German capital.

The strikes from Bobic were Hertha's first goals of the Bundesliga season but the surprise defeat leaves coach Huub Stevens under pressure at the Olympic Stadium.

Elsewhere VfB Stuttgart move into second spot after a 0-0 draw with Schalke 04 at the Arena Auf Schalke.

Felix Magath's team have not conceded a single goal in the first five league matches - a new Bundesliga record - and are the only team undefeated in the German top-flight.

Bochum woke up after the break to record their first

Bundesliga victory in Rostock in 11 years courtesy of goals from Iran striker Vahid Hashemian and Iceland midfielder Bjarni Gudjonsson.

Eintracht Frankfurt secured their first win of the campaign - a 2-0 success against Borussia Mönchengladbach. The win was achieved thanks to a 17th-minute goal from Markus Kreuz and Henning Bürger's last-minute strike.

Kaiserslautern climbed off the foot of the table with a 2-2 draw against Freiburg, for whom Soumaila Coulibaly and Andres Zeyer were on target. Bulgarian midfielder Marian Hristov scored both goals for Kaiserslautern.



Diego Klimowicz's dramatic late winner earned VfL Wolfsburg a 3-2 win against champions Bayern Munich.

VfL Wolfsburg 3 Bayern Munich 2, Hertha Berlin 2 Hannover 3, Hansa Rostock 0 VfB Bochum 2, Bayer Leverkusen 1 Hamburg SV 0, TSV 1860 Munich 2 Cologne 1, Borussia Dortmund 2 Werder Bremen 1, Schalke 04 0 VfB Stuttgart 0, Borussia M'gladbach 0 Eintracht Frankfurt 2, Kaiserslautern 2 Freiburg 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Leverkusen	5	4	0	1	11	3	12
2 Stuttgart	5	3	2	0	5	0	11
3 Dortmund	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
4 Bremen	5	3	1	1	10	4	10
5 Bayern	5	3	1	1	12	7	10
6 1860 München	5	3	1	1	6	5	10
7 Wolfsburg	5	3	0	2	11	10	9
8 Hannover	5	2	2	1	12	12	8
9 Bochum	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
10 Freiburg	5	1	3	1	9	9	6
11 Schalke	5	1	3	1	6	8	6
12 Hansa	5	1	2	2	8	9	5
13 Eintracht	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
14 M'gladbach	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
15 Köln	5	1	0	4	4	7	3
16 Hertha	5	0	3	2	2	6	3
17 Kaiserslautern	5	1	1	3	4	7	1
18 Hamburg	5	0	1	4	2	12	1

FIXTURES

September 27th 2003

Wolfsburg	v	B.Leverkusen
Kaiserslautern	v	Hannover
M'gladbach	v	Bochum
Hertha Berlin	v	Hamburg SV
Hansa Rostock	v	B.Munich
FC Cologne	v	Werder Bremen
1860 Munich	v	VfB Stuttgart
B.Dortmund	v	Freiburg
Schalke	v	E.Frankfurt



Spanish Primera Liga



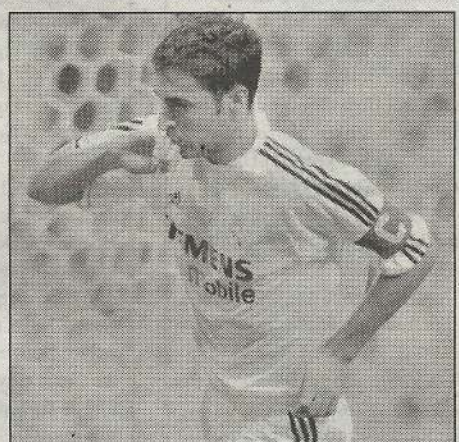
Real Madrid skipper Raul silenced the critics who had questioned his early season form when he grabbed a classy hat-trick as Real ran riot over a disappointing Valladolid 7-2 at the Bernabeu.

Real took the lead when Julio Cesar headed a wild Ronaldo shot into his own net on 21 minutes, but it was Raul who put the result beyond doubt when he struck twice before the break, first with a acrobatic back-heel and then with a deft lob.

Zinedine Zidane made it 4-0 when he volleyed home early in the second half before a frantic three minute spell saw Valladolid forward Roberto Losado pull one back with a penalty, Luis Figo restore Real's lead with another spot kick and midfielder Chema grab a second for the visitors.

Ronaldo made it 6-2 when he raced on to a David Beckham pass on 70 minutes and Raul completed the rout with a cheeky back-heel.

Real Betis recorded their first win of the season over



Real Madrid's Raul celebrates after scoring his second of three goals against Valladolid in Madrid.

an out-of-sorts Celta 0-2.

The Andalucians took the lead late in the first half when Pablo Cavallero fumbled a powerful free kick and they made sure of the victory late on when Fernando slotted home from the penalty spot.

Last season's surprise runners-up Real Sociedad notched their first win of the present campaign 0-1 against Racing, who were denied a late equaliser by Sociedad keeper Sander Westerveld.

Second string striker Oscar de Paula gave an injury-hit Sociedad a morale-boosting triumph when he headed in a fine cross from fellow forward Darko Kovacevic 13 minutes before the break.

Deportivo retained their 100 percent record thanks to a 77th minute strike from substitute Diego Tristán against previously unbeaten Sevilla 1-2.

The Galicians took the lead late in the first half when

Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani burst past two defenders to stab home from eight metres, but Sevilla got back on level terms when fellow countryman Dario Silva fired in at the near post after the break.

Tristan ensured Depor took the three points when he nipped ahead of the Sevilla defence to poke in from close range after an excellent pass from winger Fran.

Two goals each from Ismael Urzaiz and Joséba Etxeberria earned Athletic Bilbao a 4-0 win over Real Mallorca, their first victory of the season.

Urzaiz nodded in a right-wing cross from Javi Gonzalez after 37 minutes for the first and made it 2-0 with another header two minutes before half-time.

Etxeberria drove in for 3-0 after 74 minutes and with three minutes to go Mallorca goalkeeper Leo Franco conceded a penalty, and was sent off, for bringing down Joseba Arriaga. Samuel Eto'o was called in as an emergency keeper but could not stop Etxeberria's spot kick. Villarreal were rewarded for a battling display with a 1-2 win over Espanyol, their first of the season, courtesy of an injury-time penalty converted by Juan Roman Riquelme.

Espanyol took the lead after 13 minutes when Maxi Rodriguez intercepted a throw-in and beat Pepe Reina with a snap shot before Villarreal equalised through Victor 11 minutes later.

Osasuna continued their bright start to the season with a 1-0 victory over struggling Atletico Madrid. Pablo Garcia got the only goal on 36 minutes, as his free kick evaded everyone and drifted in at the far post.

Zaragoza picked up their first points of the season with an easy 3-0 victory over Murcia.

Former Real Madrid midfielder Savio scored in the first minute with a long-range free kick to set up the win and further first-half goals from David Villa, a penalty, and Luciano Galletti settled matters.

Barcelona had to withstand a late comeback from 10-

man Albacete before securing a 2-1 victory through an early strike from Philip Cocu and a second-half Luis Enrique fluke.

A scrambled goal from Carlos Marchena was just enough to give Valencia their first home win of the season and take the 2002 champions to within two points

Celta Vigo 0 Real Betis 2, Racing Santander 0 Real Sociedad 1, Real Madrid 7 Valladolid 2, Sevilla 1 Deportivo Coruna 2, Albacete 1 Barcelona 2 Athletic Bilbao 4 Real Mallorca 0 Espanyol 1 Villarreal 2 Osasuna 1 Atletico Madrid 0 Real Zaragoza 3 Murcia 0 Valencia 1 Malaga 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Deportivo	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
2 Real Madrid	3	2	1	0	10	4	7
3 Barcelona	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
4 Valencia	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
5 Osasuna	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
6 Real Sociedad	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
7 Villarreal	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
8 Betis	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
9 Racing	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
10 Sevilla	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
11 Valladolid	3	1	1	1	4	8	4
12 Athletic	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
13 Atlético	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
14 Mallorca	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
15 Zaragoza	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
16 Espanyol	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
17 Murcia	3	0	2	1	2	5	2
18 Celta	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
19 Málaga	3	0	1	2	0	2	1
20 Albacete	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

FIXTURES

Sunday 21st September

Atlético	v	Valencia
Barcelona	v	Osasuna
Deportivo	v	Albacete
Mallorca	v	Sevilla
Murcia	v	Athletic
R Sociedad	v	Zaragoza
Betis	v	Racing
Villarreal	v	Celta
Valladolid	v	Espanyol
Málaga	v	R Madrid



Dutch Eredivisie

Ajax moved to the top of Holland's Eredivisie with a 4-1 victory over former leaders RKC Waalwijk.

Scherer Andrade Maxwell and Zlatan Ibrahimovic gave them a half-time lead and Tomas Galasek added a third from the penalty spot just two minutes after the interval.

RKC's woes increased when Vergilio Teixeira was sent off for a second bookable offence moments later and Wesley Sonck made it 4-0 just after the hour.

Khalid Boulahrouz pulled one back for RKC but their perfect record was left in tatters, while Ajax made it four wins from four.

PSV Eindhoven moved into second place with a 2-1 win over Utrecht thanks to goals from Mateja Kezman and Mark van Bommel, while Heerenveen went fourth after Petter Hansson's solitary strike gave them maximum points at home to Groningen.

Vitesse Arnhem grabbed their first point of the season with a 1-1 draw at RBC Roosendaal.

Matthew Amoah put them ahead in the 29th minute before Danny Hesp equalised for the hosts and Vitesse were then left hanging on after Gert Claessens was dismissed for a second bookable offence.



— **Tomas Galasek scored from the spot as Ajax downed former leaders RKC Waalwijk 4-1.**

Bottom club Zwolle failed to score for the fourth successive game but at least put a point on the board with a 0-0 draw at home to Roda JC.

ADO Den Haag fought back to snatch a 1-1 draw with Volendam in a battle between two newly-promoted outfits.

It looked bleak for ADO when Jack Tuyp gave the visitors from Volendam the lead after 10 minutes.

Tuyp finished off a fine move, after controlling the ball on the edge of the penalty box with his left foot before firing a powerful shot past goalkeeper Roland Jansen.

However, it did not take long for ADO to restore parity with Bodde the man who scored the equaliser with a precise free-kick over the wall and inside the right-hand post.

Dirk Kuijt grabbed a late equaliser to salvage a 2-2 draw for sixth-placed Feyenoord in a hard-fought match at AZ Alkmaar. The forward had converted a ninth-minute penalty before their hosts, who stayed fifth, hit back through Barry van Galen and Ali Elkhatabi to go into half-time ahead.

NAC Breda earned a point from a 1-1 draw with Willem II courtesy of an 89th-minute goal from Stefano Seedorf. Midfield player Danny Landzaat had given the visitors a seventh-minute lead.

NEC Nijmegen overcame a 1-0 deficit to see off Twente Enschede 2-1. The visitors made a promising start when they struck first in the 18th minute through Colin John and were awarded a penalty six minutes later after Dejan Govedarica was sent off.

But goalkeeper Dennis Gentenaar saved Sjaak Polak's spot-kick and Blaise N'Kufo was then dismissed, evening up the numbers. Fabian de Freitas and Dennis de Noijer both scored within four minutes after the restart to give the home side their second victory of the season.

Ajax 4 RKC Waalwijk 1, Zwolle 0 Roda JC 0, Heerenveen 1 Groningen 0, PSV Eindhoven 2 Utrecht 1, RBC 1 Vitesse 1, Den Haag 1 Volendam 1, AZ Alkmaar 2 Feyenoord 2, NAC Breda 1 Willem II 1, NEC 2 Twente Enschede 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	4	4	0	0	8	2	12
PSV	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
Waalwijk	4	3	0	1	8	4	9
Heerenveen	4	3	0	1	3	2	9
Alkmaar	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Feyenoord	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Willem II	4	2	1	1	5	7	7
NEC	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Groningen	4	2	0	2	3	4	6
Roda	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
NAC	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Roosendaal	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Volendam	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Utrecht	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Twente	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Den Haag	4	0	2	2	2	5	2
Vitesse	4	0	1	3	3	7	1
Zwolle	4	0	1	3	0	5	1



Greek Ethniki Kategoria

After a week's break because of a Euro 2004 qualifier against Armenia, domestic Greek soccer resumed with Panathinaikos taking the lead in the first division after a 3-1 win over minnow Kallithea.

In the third round's major upset, lowly Proodeftiki downed defending champion Olympiakos 1-0.

The round was marred by fan violence in Iraklis' clash against

ball and made it 2-0.

Visitors Kallithea narrowed the gap with Anastassis Kyrgiakos in the 56th and then launched continuous attacks in an effort to level the score. They squandered two opportunities before Raimondas Zutaatas ended Kallithea's hopes with a third goal for Panathinaikos in injury time.

Despite the win, Panathinaikos appeared disorganized, disappointing more than 10,000 fans at its Apostolos Nikolaidis stadium in central Athens.

Olympiakos controlled the match throughout but could not easily penetrate an unyielding Proodeftiki defence.

Proodeftiki's keeper Luigi Cennamo was central to his team's triumph by making a handful of key saves.

In the 87th, Olympiakos claimed a penalty when three of its players went down. But referee Giorgos Douros, who replaced Kyros Vassaras in the 66th because of a leg injury, was unconvinced.

Olympiakos found itself dangerously vulnerable at the back while desperately seeking a winner. In an 88th minute counterattack, Proodeftiki's Christos Dagounakis made a solo run down the left wing and crossed to Zaimi in the center. Zaimi's goal gave his team its first-ever win over Olympiakos.

AEK took an early lead against Iraklis in the 4th with a shot from Grigoris Georgatos off a pass from Yiannis Okkas.

Dimitris Ioannou was sent off in the 62nd, following a second yellow card offense, but AEK failed to take advantage.

In the 76th, a blistering right-foot shot from the edge of the box by Polish striker Marcin Miecziel gave AEK keeper Dionissis Chiotis no chance and made it 1-1.

Costas Katsouranis gave AEK the lead again in the 81st. Three minutes later, Iraklis' Panayiotis Drougas secured the draw with a shot from outside the area.



— **French star Christian Karembou couldn't believe his luck when Olympiakos lost to lowly Proodeftiki one-nil.**

AEK Athens in Thessaloniki.

Hundreds of supporters from both clubs threw broken plastic chairs at each other. Three Iraklis fans reportedly suffered minor injuries.

A flare thrown from inside the ground ended up in a parking lot outside the stadium, starting a fire that damaged several cars.

Panathinaikos' win puts them at the top of the standings, thanks to Olympiakos' away loss and a 2-2 draw by AEK Athens against Iraklis.

Panathinaikos now has nine points, AEK seven and Olympiakos six.

Panathinaikos went ahead with a close-range shot from Panayiotis Fyssas off a perfect pass from Yugoslav midfielder Silvio Maric in the 4th minute.

In the 40th, Dimitris Papadopoulos pounced on a loose

Panathinaikos 3 Aris Salonika 0, Halkidona 2 Xanthi 0, Akrotiris 1 PAOK Salonika 2, Panionios 1 OFI Crete 1, Proodeftiki 1 Olympiakos 0, Iraklis 2 AEK Athens 2, Panathinaikos 3 Kallithea 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Panathinaikos	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
2. AEK Athens	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
3. Olympiakos	3	2	0	1	9	1	6
4. PAOK Salonika	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
5. Iraklis	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
6. Panionios	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
7. Aris Salonika	3	1	1	1	3	1	4
8. Halkidona	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
9. Proodeftiki	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
10. Paniliakos	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
11. Aegaleo	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
12. Ionikos	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
13. Akrotiris	3	1	0	2	2	9	3
14. Xanthi	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
15. Kallithea	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
16. OFI Crete	3	0	1	2	2	8	1



Scottish Premier League

Rangers maintained their perfect start to the Scottish league season with a thumping 4-0 win over Dunfermline while rivals Celtic stayed two points behind them with a hard fought 1-0 win at Dundee.

Rangers remained top thanks to goals from Steven Thompson, Michael Mols, Shota Arveladze and Nuno Capucho to overwhelm the visitors, whose 6-1 defeat on the final day of last season culminated in a record 50th championship for Rangers.

Rangers move on to 15 points but Celtic stay two points behind them after winning 1-0 at Dundee despite having to play 65 minutes with 10 men due to a harsh red card for French winger Didier Agathe.

Rangers' manager Alex McLeish praised Dutch striker Mols ahead of their Champions League opener with VfB Stuttgart.

Dunfermline have not won at Ibrox since 1972 and there was little hope of them ending that run on this visit.

Celtic open their Champions League campaign with an away match at Bayern Munich on Wednesday and needed to produce a strong defensive display at Dundee after Agathe's red card.

Bobo Balde bulleted home a header from Stephen Crainey's free-kick after eight minutes but Celtic manager Martin O'Neill was more concerned about the decision of referee Dougie McDonald to red card his player.

Agathe outpaced home striker Nacho Novo to win the ball but referee Dougie McDonald deemed the Celtic player to be guilty of a foul as the last man and showed a straight red.

Hearts still lead the chasing

pack after a double from Mark de Vries gave the Jambos a 2-0 win at Kilmarnock.

The Dutchman opened the scoring on 14 minutes and ended a first half that the visitors had dominated with a 41st-minute goal.

Killie rallied after the break, but could not find a way through and stay in the bottom three.

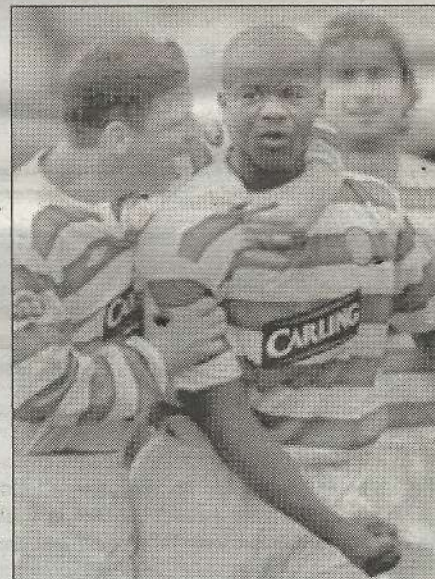
David Clarkson also bagged a brace as Motherwell beat Hibernian 2-0 at Fir Park.

The 18-year-old repaid manager Terry Butcher with goals in the 45th and 75th minutes, with the second strike a result of a howler by Hibs defender Yannick Zambernardi.

Elsewhere Scott Booth scored his first goal of the season as Aberdeen beat Partick 2-1 at Pittodrie.

Booth headed home a Paul Sheerin free-kick on six minutes to give the Dons the lead but Jamie Mitchell levelled matters seven minutes into the second half.

The hosts always looked the more likely winners, though, and



— **Celtic defender Bobo Balde is mobbed after scoring the lone goal against Dundee at Dens Park.**

defender Russell Anderson climbed highest on 76 minutes to give them all three points.

In the day's other game, Livingston and Dundee United played out a 0-0 draw to give the men from Tannadice their first point of the season.

Aberdeen 2 Partick Thistle 1, Dundee 0 Celtic 1, Hibernian 0 Motherwell 2, Kilmarnock 0 Hearts 2, Livingston 0 Dundee United 0, Rangers 4 Dunfermline 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Rangers	4	4	0	0	15	5	12
2 Celtic	4	3	1	0	12	2	10
3 Hearts	4	3	0	1	6	1	9
4 Dundee	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
5 Dunfermline	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
6 Hibernian	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
7 Motherwell	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
8 Kilmarnock	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
9 Livingston	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
10 Partick	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
11 Aberdeen	4	0	1	3	4	8	1
12 Dundee United	4	0	0	4	2	13	0



French Ligue 1

Olympique Marseille, spearheaded by Egypt's Mido, crushed promoted Le Mans 5-0 to seize the French Ligue 1 lead.

Just days before their Champions League return, the former European champions, who have been plagued by scoring problems in recent seasons, were relieved that all four strikers on the match sheet scored.

Mido, hired from Ajax in the off-season, scored twice, in the 54th and 86 minutes.

Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba had opened the floodgates in the 13th minute, French international Steve Marlet made it two in the 24th and Russia's Dmitry Sychev added a fourth in the 68th minute.

minutes into extra time while Nice handed Nantes a 1-0 defeat with Abdelmalek Cherrad scoring the game's only goal in the 10th minute.

Bastia hammered En Avant Guingamp 4-2 with Frederic Nee bagging a brace for the home side while Rennes defeated Lens 2-0 thanks to goals from Olivier Sorlin on 22 minutes and Stephane N'Guema 13 minutes from time.

Bordeaux suffered a surprise 1-3 home defeat at the hands of Sochaux despite taking a 22nd minute lead. Pierre Alain Frau equalised for the visitors, Mickael Isabey put Sochaux ahead before Frau sealed all



Marseille's forward Didier Drogba vies with Le Mans defender Thabang Molefe during their match at the Velodrome Stadium in Marseille.

The win put Marseille alone at the top of the standings on 15 points as Monaco were held to a 1-1 draw at Lille and now lie two points adrift.

French international playmaker Ludovic Giuly scored a 44th-minute goal for Monaco against the run of play but Bulgaria's Vladimir Manchev levelled the scoring for the northerners 15 minutes from the final whistle.

Giovane Elber saved Olympique Lyon from another disappointment when he scored the French champions' only goal in their 1-1 home draw against AJ Auxerre.

The Brazilian striker, hired from Bayern Munich last month, was on target in the 43rd minute of only his second game for Lyon.

French international Djibril Cisse, ideally set up by Ivory Coast's Bonaventure Kalou, had opened the scoring for Auxerre in the 28th minute.

Strasbourg took a rapid lead against Ajaccio when Serb Danijel Ljuboja opened the scoring with a penalty after being brought down by goalkeeper Stephane Trevisan in the fourth minute.

Mamadou Bagayoko levelled the score in the 18th minute but Strasbourg again seized the lead thanks to back-to-back goals scored by Senegal's Mamadou Niang in the 21st and 26th minutes.

A gross mistake by goalkeeper Richard Dutruel helped Abdelnasser Ouaddah to score a second goal for Ajaccio in the 33rd minute but Strasbourg held on for a 3-2 win.

Metz downed Montpellier 2-1 thanks to a Pape Thiaw goal four

three points late on.

Paris St Germain scored an unconvincing but welcome first home win when they beat promoted Toulouse 2-1.

Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze scored the winner in the 68th minute with a header after the ball had bounced off the post.

Toulouse's Nicolas Dieuze had stolen the show earlier with an own goal in the 42nd minute before he scored at the right end, equalising with a superb header, in the 59th.

Marseille 5 Le Mans 0, Lille 1 Monaco 1, Lyon 1 Auxerre 1, Strasbourg 3 Ajaccio 2, Metz 2 Montpellier 1, Nice 1 Nantes 0, Bastia 4 En Avant Guingamp 2, Bordeaux 1 Sochaux 3, Stade Rennes 2 Lens 0, Paris St Germain 2 Toulouse 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Marseille	6	5	0	1	11	2	15
2 Monaco	6	4	1	1	11	6	13
3 Lille	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
4 Nice	6	3	2	1	7	5	11
5 Strasbourg	6	3	1	2	11	7	10
6 Nantes	6	3	1	2	7	4	10
7 Sochaux	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
8 Bastia	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
9 Lens	6	3	1	2	4	5	10
10 Rennes	6	2	3	1	6	4	9
11 Lyon	6	2	2	2	6	5	8
12 Metz	6	2	1	3	5	5	7
13 Bordeaux	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
14 Ajaccio	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
15 Auxerre	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
16 PSG	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
17 Montpellier	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
18 Guingamp	6	1	1	4	5	10	4
19 Toulouse	6	0	2	4	2	9	2
20 Mans	6	0	2	4	1	11	2



Belgium First Division

Anderlecht, last season's Belgian league runners-up, thrashed Lokeren 6-0 to maintain their position at the top of the first division while champions Club Brugge were held to a 1-1 draw by Ghent.

Anderlecht are now unbeaten after five games of the new Belgian season after hammering bottom-placed Lokeren and have a four point lead over Brugge.

The Brussels team, champions in 2000 and 2001, had a fairly easy time of it as Lokeren, who have yet to score a goal this season, scored two own goals.

Korean forward Ki Hyeon Seol opened the scoring for Anderlecht in the 19th minute before the Brussels team took control of the match in the second half.

A perfect pass by Ivorian striker Aruna Dindane set up Croatian Ivica Mornar while Marc Hendrixx added the fifth before Dindane sealed the win with the sixth goal.

Club Brugge team had a harder time of it against a tough Ghent defence.

The champions took the lead in the first half when Belgian international Philippe Clement scored in the 39th minute and it looked like they would take all three points before Ghent's Miljan Mrdakovic snatched a draw with an 87th minute goal.

Excelsior Mouscron strolled to a 4-0 victory over Cercle Brugge to collect their first win of the season. Polish striker Marcin Zewlakow initiated proceedings in the 12th minute and a superb shot from Steve Dugardein had them 2-0 up at the break. Christophe Gregoire added the third and Luigi Pieroni rounded off the win.

Genk moved into third place after defeating Standard de Liège 2-0. The visitors set the pace early on as midfielder player Koen Daerden drove in after eight minutes. They were never-

theless forced to endure a tense finish before Theo Janssen settled matters a minute from time.

Genk's win takes them the third position on 10 points, the same as Liege.

Charleroi drew 0-0 with Antwerp, a result mirrored by Beerschot and La Louviere while Westerlo beat Beveren 3-2. Sixth-placed Lierse overcame Mons 3-1 away.

Lokeren 0 Anderlecht 6, Westerlo 3 Beveren 2, Charleroi 0 Royal Antwerp 0, Club Brugge 1 Ghent 1, Germinal Beerschot 0 La Louviere 0, Mouscron 4 Cercle Brugge 0, Mons 1 Lierse 3, Standard 0 Genk 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Anderlecht	5	5	0	0	16	2	15
2 Club Brugge	5	3	2	0	11	4	11
3 Genk	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
4 Standard	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
5 AA Gent	5	2	2	1	10	8	8
6 Lierse	5	2	2	1	5	3	8
7 Sint-Truiden	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
8 Antwerp	5	2	1	2	4	8	7
9 La Louviere	5	1	4	0	5	3	7
10 Mouscron	5	1	3	1	10	8	6
11 Germinal Beerschot	5	1	3	1	3	3	6
12 Westerlo	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
13 Cercle Brugge	5	1	2	2	1	6	5
14 Beveren	5	1	0	4	7	13	3
15 Charleroi	5	0	2	3	0	4	2
16 Heusden	5	0	2	3	0	5	2
17 Mons	5	0	2	3	5	12	2



FIFA WORLD RANKING

1 Brazil	834	1	0	1	0	51 Wales	558	50	-1	52	1
2 France	814	2	0	2	0	52 Côte d'Ivoire	555	59	7	64	12
3 Spain	762	2	-1	3	0	53 New Zealand	550	51	-2	49	-4
4 Argentina	754	5	1	5	1	54 Trinidad and Tobago	549	52	-2	47	-7
5 Netherlands	752	6	1	6	1	55 Slovakia	544	53	-2	55	0
6 Germany	745	4	-2	4	-2	55 Venezuela	544	63	8	69	14
7 Turkey	733	8	1	9	2	55 Austria	544	61	6	54	-1
8 England	727	7	-1	7	-1	58 Congo DR	541	65	7	65	7
9 United States	717	10	1	10	1	59 Iceland	538	70	11	58	-1
10 Czech Republic	712	13	3	15	5	59 Scotland	538	64	5	58	-1
11 Italy	711	12	1	13	2	61 Zimbabwe	536	55	-6	56	-5
11 Mexico	711	9	-2	8	-3	62 Estonia	534	61	-1	60	-2
13 Denmark	710	10	-3	12	-1	63 Cuba	532	56	-7	71	8
14 Ireland Republic	703	15	1	14	0	64 Iraq	531	56	-8	53	-11
15 Portugal	692	14	-1	11	-4	65 Thailand	529	59	-6	66	1
16 Cameroon	691	18	2	16	0	65 Guatemala	529	58	-7	78	13
17 Belgium	672	16	-1	17	0	67 Zambia	526	69	2	66	-1
18 Costa Rica	663	17	-1	21	3	68 Algeria	522	66	-2	68	0
18 Sweden	663	20	2	24	6	69 Ghana	513	67	-2	60	-9
20 Paraguay	657	19	-1	18	-2	70 Chile	510	73	3	84	14
21 Romania	652	27	6	24	3	70 China PR	510	68	-2	63	-7
22 Colombia	651	39	17	37	15	72 Burkina Faso	508	83	11	75	3
23 Norway	648	24	1	26	3	73 Mali	505	74	1	73	0
24 Japan	643	23	-1	22	-2	74 Qatar	499	71	-3	62	-12
24 Korea Republic	643	21	-3	20	-4	75 Bosnia-Herzegovina	495	72	-3	87	12
26 Croatia	640	26	0	32	6	76 Kenya	493	78	2	80	4
27 Serbia and Montenegro	636	22	-5	19	-8	77 Jordan	489	75	-2	77	0
28 Senegal	633	29	1	27	-1	78 Canada	482	77	-1	70	-8
29 Slovenia	628	36	7	36	7	79 Latvia	481	79	0	78	-1
30 Russia	627	25	-5	22	-8	80 Peru	480	81	1	82	2
31 Nigeria	626	32	1	29	-2	81 Angola	479	86	5	76	-5
31 Uruguay	626	28	-3	28	-3	82 Belarus	478	76	-6	74	-8
33 South Africa	619	31	-2	30	-3	83 Cyprus	474	88	5	80	-3
33 Greece	619	45	12	48	15	84 Haiti	473	80	-4	71	-13
33 Poland	619	29	-4	33	0	85 El Salvador	469	82	-3	94	9
36 Ecuador	616	33	-3	31	-5	86 Togo	468	92	6	85	-1
37 Morocco	613	38	1	35	-2	86 Georgia	468	84	-2	90	4
38 Bulgaria	612	35	-3	42	4	88 Albania	466	89	1	93	5
39 Egypt	606	44	5	39	0	89 Indonesia	465	84	-5	110	21
40 Switzerland	605	43	3	44	4	90 Macedonia FYR	461	93	3	85	-5
41 Iran	600	34	-7	33	-8	91 Kuwait	455	87	-4	83	-8
42 Honduras	596	37	-5	40	-2	91 Libya	455	97	6	104	13
42 Tunisia	596	40	-2	41	-1	93 Syria	445	90	-3	91	-2
44 Israel	593	40	-4	46	2	94 Barbados	442	94	0	99	5
45 Finland	585	45	0	43	-2	95 United Arab Emirates	439	90	-5	89	-6
46 Saudi Arabia	581	42	-4	38	-8	95 Vietnam SR	439	95	0	108	13
47 Ukraine	579	47	0	45	-2	95 Singapore	439	98	3	118	23
48 Jamaica	571	48	0	51	3	98 Liberia	438	96	-2	88	-10
49 Hungary	570	54	5	56	7	99 Lithuania	427	99	0	100	1
50 Australia	562	49	-1	50	0	100 Congo	423	100	0	97	-3

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